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Japan

Kato Views GATT Talks, Agricultural Plan

OW1802101892 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 0300 GMT 18 Feb 92

[Text] At a news conference today, Chief Cabinet Secretary Kato referred to the GATT's Uruguay Round talks and indicated that priority should be given to negotiations among GATT member nations rather than to their submission of an itemized plan for reducing the protection of agricultural products by 1 March.

With regard to the rice issue, which is a focal point of the member nations' respective plans for reducing agricultural protection, Chief Cabinet Secretary Kato said that the Japanese Government, for its part, has not yet made a final decision on how and in what form the plan would be submitted.

The chief cabinet secretary said that at the Geneva negotiating tables Japan has maintained repeatedly its position of rejecting tariffication without exception, included in the comprehensive draft agreement proposed by GATT Director General Dunkel. He added that, apart from the submission by the member nations of their agricultural protection reduction plans by 1 March, member nations should have in-depth discussions on the issue of tariffication without exception, which is opposed by Japan and other nations.

He said that Japan, both unofficially and officially, is working with member nations to hold negotiations before the deadline for submitting the plans. In this way, he indicated that priority should be given to negotiations among member nations rather than to submitting the plan.

His remarks stressing the need for negotiations before submitting the reduction plan reflect the government's concern that if the government should list rice tariff rates in a certain form, this would have an impact on an 8 March by-election for the House of Councillors and possibly would give the impression that the government has accepted rice tariffication.

U.S. Rebuff of GATT Trade Proposal Viewed

OW1702125392 Tokyo KYODO in English 1240 GMT 17 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 17 KYODO—The United States has rebuffed a Japanese proposal for early holding of talks to amend a draft agreement on farm issues in the world trade negotiations held under the auspices of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), senior Japanese officials said Monday.

The officials at the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries, said Washington insisted that the issue be settled in the ongoing market access negotiations.

They made the remarks after returning from a tour of the United States and European countries to obtain first-hand information about the negotiations and to seek support for Japan's proposed amendments to the draft agreement worked out last December by GATT Director General Arthur Dunkel.

The proposed draft agreement calls for all nations participating in the negotiations to replace farm produce import restrictions with tariffs without exception.

Japan has imposed a virtual ban on imports of rice, a product which it says it must be able to produce self-sufficiently to maintain its food security.

The officials said European Community (EC) nations, notably Germany and France, supported moves to seek a revision of the draft agreement, and prepared to discuss amendments within the week.

They said full-scale discussions on basic tariff rates for farm imports will likely be put off until after March 1, when the negotiating parties are required to submit their plans for reducing import restrictions.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries has revealed the contents of the proposed four-point amendment seeking withdrawal of tariffs on all farm imports.

The ministry said that implementing tariffication while retaining export subsidies is unfair and demanded that a new waiver clause allowing countries to impose import controls on staple food be included in the GATT charter.

The proposal also deals with a reduction of farm export subsidies, expansion of market access, and income and structural adjustments in agriculture.

The amendment proposal has been approved by other related ministries and unofficially offered to other major negotiating countries, ministry officials said.

Official Hints at U.S. Trade Formula Acceptance

OW1802144592 Tokyo KYODO in English 1432 GMT 18 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 18 KYODO—A senior Farm Ministry official said Tuesday that Japan will probably have to accept a U.S. formula that would require steeper Japanese tariff reductions on imports of processed farm products.

The official at the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries said Japan might be forced to yield to a U.S. demand that Japan base its tariff cuts on the effective tax rate rather than the tariff rates registered with the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

Since the effective rate is lower than the registered tariffs, Japan would be required to cut its import duties further than originally proposed, the official said.

The issue is expected to be taken up at market-access talks set to begin Thursday under the GATT Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations.

Tokyo earlier told its trading partners that import duties on biscuits and other processed farm product imports would be lowered by a fixed percentage of registered tariffs.

Japan and the United States were unable to narrow their differences on the issue during talks held in early February.

"During the coming talks we will probably not be able to settle the issue like we always do," the official said, indicating that a concession by Japan may be the only way to break the deadlock.

Miyazawa Hints Submission of Schedule to GATT

OW1802152692 Tokyo KYODO in English 1459 GMT 18 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 18 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa indicated Tuesday that Japan may specify an item-by-item schedule for reducing farm trade protection, including rice. Miyazawa dropped the hint to reporters after being briefed by a farm ministry official on recent moves between the United States and the European Community over farm trade negotiations under the General Agreement on Tarrifs and Trade (GATT).

"We must submit something (to GATT talks by March 1) but have not yet made a final decision," Miyazawa told reporters.

Another top government official also made a similar suggestion Tuesday, saying, "Each GATT member country will submit its item-by-item schedule by March 1 but the content will be insufficient."

GATT member countries are required to present their respective policy responses by March 1 in reply to the "tariffication without exception" proposal put forward by GATT Director General Arthur Dunkel. The proposal calls for nations to reduce tariffs on farm imports by an average 36 percent between 1993 and 1999.

As for rice market liberalization, Dunkel set the minimum rice import volume at 3 percent of total domestic consumption in the initial year. The figure would eventually be raised to 5 percent.

Japan maintains a virtual ban on rice imports on the grounds that maintaining self-sufficiency in the staple food is vital to its national security.

Kato Vows To Squelch Comment on Rice Issue

OW1702081292 Tokyo KYODO in English 0647 GMT 17 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 17 KYODO—Facing a crucial by-election in early March, Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa's top spokesman promised Monday to dissuade cabinet members from commenting on the controversial issue of opening up Japan's rice market to imports.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Koichi Kato made the promise in a meeting with Hiroshi Mitsuzuka, leader of the third largest faction inside the ruling Liberal Democratic Party.

Mitsuzuka was passing along concerns raised by the rice-growing area of Miyagi Prefecture where a by-election for a House of Councillors seat will be held on March 8.

"We have to prevent the opening of the rice market at all costs in order to win the by-election," Mitsuzuka was quoted as telling Kato.

Mitsuzuka previously served as minister of international trade and industry and foreign affairs.

Bank of Japan Governor Leaves for U.S. 18 Feb

OW1802051292 Tokyo KYODO in English 0408 GMT 18 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 18 KYODO—Bank of Japan (BOJ) Governor Yasushi Mieno left Japan for the United States Tuesday afternoon to meet U.S. financial officials, including Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan, officials said.

Mieno will return home on Sunday.

PCB Leakage From U.S. Facilities Denied

OW1602131592 Naha RYUKYU SHIMPO in Japanese 15 Feb 92 Morning Edition p 2

[Text] With regard to the issue of some U.S. Forces facilities on Okinawa possibly being contaminated with PCB (polychlorinated biphenyls), the Marine Branch of the All Japan Garrison Workers Union [AJGWU] Okinawa Chapter (chairman: Seiko Hanashiro), told the prefectural government that there was a strong probability that PCB-contained waste was stored in such U.S. Marine Corps [USMC] facilities as Camp Zukeran, Futenma Air Station, and Camp Hansen. The report was made on 14 February and based on the testimonies of Japanese base workers who were engaged in work to remove and store PCB-containing tranformers in alloted places. Commenting on this issue, a USMC spokesman said: "The removed transformers are properly stored and regular inspections are conducted to check leakage." Although the spokesman refrained from revealing the names of specific facilities, he admitted that PCB waste is stored in more than one facility.

Meanwhile, AJGWU Okinawa Chapter President Misao Kamiyama, taking the fact that Japanese workers were engaged in work to remove PCB-containing transformers seriously, visited the Okinawa Labor Standards Inspection Bureau on the same day and demanded that security measures be taken immediately, including health checkups for workers who were engaged in the work. In response, Bureau Chief Naoharu Fuse said: "As far as Japanese workers are concerned, we will instruct the prefectural government, the Japanese workers' employer, to take such measures as health check-ups in accordance with the Specified Chemical Sickness Prevention Regulations in the Labor Security and Hygiene Law."

As early as next week, the prefectural government plans to ask the U.S. Forces Okinawa area coordinator about how PCB is being used in U.S. Forces facilities, and to seek approval for on-the-spot inspections.

The AJGWU Marine Branch pointed out that "even now, Japanese workers are asked to engage in work to remove, dispose, or store tranformers containing highly-concentrated PCB," and that "PCB waste is contained in 5.5-gallon drum cans and stored in alloted places". Referring to this issue, a USMC spokesman said: "Some PCB-contained transformers were sent back to the United States for disposal; and some are properly stored to be sent back to the United States. For those transformers currently in use, we conduct regular inspections." He added that the concentration of PCB in transformers now in use is below the U.S. standard and that in fact no USMC facilities are "contaminated" by PCB.

EC Official on Concern Over U.S. Auto Pact

OW1702121492 Tokyo KYODO in English 1105 GMT 17 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 17 KYODO—European Community (EC) Vice President Sir Leon Brittan on Monday voiced concern over the recent Japan-U.S. pact on bilateral auto trade, saying the two economic powers may be tilting toward managed trade.

In talks with International Trade and Industry Minister Kozo Watanabe, Brittan said the EC is worried that the accord may translate into discrimination against the rest of the world.

During U.S. President George Bush's visit to Tokyo in early January, Japan agreed to greatly boost its purchases of autos and auto parts to reduce its persistent trade surplus.

Brittan said the EC fears that Japan will sacrifice its ties with it in honoring bilateral agreements with Washington.

He also said it would be problematic if Japan and the United States resort to managed trade to redress their trade imbalance rather than bringing their case to a multilateral forum.

Watanabe assured Brittan that Japan will evenly apply its import-promotion policies to both the U.S. and the EC.

Brittan, on a four-day tour to Tokyo, also called on Japan to buy more high-tech products from the 12-nation trading group.

Japan's active imports of European luxury goods like paintings helped cut the bilateral trade gap until a few years ago, but the collapse of the speculative "bubble" economy thereafter has been dampening those purchases, letting the imbalance widen again over the past year.

Asks for Equal Imports Benefits

OW1802130092 Tokyo KYODO in English 1227 GMT 18 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 18 KYODO—European Community (EC) Vice President Leon Brittan asked Japan on Tuesday not to confine to the United States the benefits of recent pledges to boost imports, a government official said.

Referring to a recent Japan-U.S. Action Plan to promote Japanese imports, Brittan told Finance Minster Tsutomu Hata he hopes the program will not be implemented at the expense of other regions, a ministry official said.

Hata responded that the plan is not intended to cover Japan-U.S. trade exclusively, and pledged that the benefits of the import-boosting program would be extended equally to all of Japan's trade partners, the official said.

The EC leader also called on Japan to deregulate its financial markets as scheduled, expressing special interest in the insurance sector, according to the official.

Hata said Japan will work to complete deregulations in 1994, as planned.

Brittan was quoted as saying trade in financial services must be handled separately from trade in goods in the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade talks, being held under the auspices of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

The official quoted Brittan as saying that GATT Director General Arthur Dunkel's proposal for new GATT accords does not sufficiently take into account the special characteristics of financial services.

Hata agreed, according to the ministry official.

Major industrial nations have agreed to make new GATT rules covering trade in services, including financial services.

They are seeking to establish a new financial services committee under the GATT Secretariat to handle disputes and other issues in the field.

But the major participants in the GATT talks are not satisfied with Dunkel's proposal, which they say is not clear enough on the separate handling of financial service issues.

Minister, EC Official Set UK Summit for Jul

OW1702130192 Tokyo KYODO in English 1230 GMT 17 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 17 KYODO—European Community (EC) Vice President Leon Brittan and Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe agreed Monday to hold a summit meeting in Britain in early July shortly before the conference of seven industrial countries to be held in Munich, Germany, Foreign Ministry officials said.

Watanabe and Brittan, in a meeting at the Foreign Ministry, were quoted as saying they agreed that Japan and the EC should hold the meeting to promote dialogue.

Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa and EC President Jacques Delors are expected to attend the upcoming meeting, which will be the second of its kind following one held in The Hague, the Netherlands last July, the officials said.

EC Official Urges Opening Up Insurance Market

OW1702130992 Tokyo KYODO in English 1303 GMT 17 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 17 KYODO—European Community (EC) Vice President Leon Brittan said Monday Japan needs to further open its financial sector, including the insurance market, to foreign firms.

In an address before a group of Japanese businessmen in Tokyo, he said Japan should remove its ban on insurance brokers and review its policies regarding nonlife insurance premium rates and compulsory motor liability insurance.

Brittan also called on Japan to promote direct dealings between Japanese and foreign banks in the interbank market, increase the supply of Japanese Government bonds, and further open its pension fund management business.

He hailed Japan's extension of a competitive auction system to a large proportion of new government bond issues and deregulation of interest rates.

But he said Japan should reciprocate the EC's efforts to give foreign competitors equal opportunity to enter its financial markets by minimizing restrictions in its financial markets.

Brittan expressed concern regarding the ability of residents in Japan to invest abroad.

He delivered his address before an industry group called the institute for financial affairs.

The EC official is on a four-day tour of Tokyo.

Contributions to Nuclear Scientist Center Asked

OW1802051392 Tokyo KYODO in English 0505 GMT 18 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 18 KYODO—An international conference will be held soon to discuss ways to prevent former Soviet scientists from selling their nuclear weapons knowledge abroad, Japanese Foreign Ministry officials said Tuesday.

The timing and the place of the conference have not been decided yet, officials said.

They said the United States informed the ministry about the conference proposal through its embassy in Tokyo on Monday, asking Japan to participate.

Nuclear experts from the Group of Seven industrialized nations are expected to attend the meeting, they said. The seven are the U.S., Japan, Germany, France, Italy, Britain, and Canada.

The meeting will discuss the creation of an international center, proposed Monday by the United States, Russia, and Germany, to help former Soviet scientists carry out peaceful scientific projects, officials said.

The three countries issued a joint statement on the center to which the U.S. said it would contribute 25 million dollars.

The U.S. is also asking for Japanese contributions to the center, the Japanese officials said.

Foreign Ministry Spokesman Masamichi Hanabusa told foreign correspondents that Japan sees the tripartite announcement as "an important and relevant development in the right direction."

He said that an internal ministry task force established last week would take up the proposed international science and technology center and discuss Japan's role in it.

The task force will also consider how Japan should join international efforts to assist former Soviet republics in dismantling nuclear weapons and disposing of nuclear materials such as plutonium, Hanabusa said.

He said the task force will also deal with ways to prevent former Soviet scientists and researchers with proficiency in the development of nuclear weapons from taking up lucrative offers from countries wishing to acquire their know-how.

Also on the task force agenda will be discussing details of Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe's recent proposal for an international meeting of experts to tackle nuclear issues relating to the former Soviet Union, the spokesman said.

Watanabe told Austrian Foreign Minister Alois Mock last week that Japan would be willing to put up its fair share of funds once experts reach a consensus on what specific measures to take and what they would cost.

The spokesman declined to say if Watanabe was suggesting that the proposed meeting be held in Japan.

Watanabe: Government To Cooperate

OW1802054692 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 0300 GMT 18 Feb 92

[Text] Russian President Boris Yeltsin and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker agreed to set up an international science and technology center for former Soviet scientists in a bid to prevent nuclear technology from being drained from the former Soviet Union.

Speaking at a news conference after a cabinet meeting today, Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe referred to this issue and indicated that the Japanese Government would study measures to cooperate in the establishment of such a center. He said that preventing a leakage of Soviet nuclear technology and an exodus of its scientists would contribute to removing international concerns. Japan will study cooperative measures, he said. Watanabe noted that there are many ways to establish the center, including to set it up as a foundation with contributions from various nations. Moreover, he said that, before establishing the center, experts from various nations shuold gather to discuss necessary measures and conduct a survey. In this way, he indicated Japan's plan to promote the study of cooperative measures.

The United States, Russia, and Germany have been calling for setting up such a center, which would be able to offer peace-oriented scientific projects and necessary funds to former Soviet scientists and technicians, to prevent Soviet nuclear technology from being leaked. The United States already has decided to provide $25 million to the project and called on other nations to cooperate.

Export-Import Bank To Free Aid Loan to CIS

OW1502084992 Tokyo KYODO in English 0829 GMT 15 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 15 KYODO—The Export-Import Bank of Japan plans to transfer this month to former Soviet republics a loan of 100 million dollars in food and medical aid Japan promised in December 1990, a senior bank official said Saturday.

Disbursement of the loan was delayed by political chaos in the Soviet Union last year and then by the resulting breakup of the Union, throwing into confusion what entity would repay the loan.

The loan will be extended to the former Soviet foreign trade bank, Vneshekonombank, without cofinancing by Japanese commercial banks, the official said on condition of anonymity.

The Export-Import Bank negotiated with several commercial banks over sharing the 100 million dollar loan but decided to act alone due to hesitancy among commercial banks to provide new loans to the former Soviet republics.

Besides the 100 million dollar loan, Japan has pledged a loan of 500 million dollars in food and medical aid to the former Soviet republics through the government-financed bank but transfer of that loan has also been delayed.

The Export-Import Bank aims to provide the 500 million dollar loan in cofinancing with commercial banks, the bank official said.

Russia, Niigata To Work on Regular Air Route

OW1702132692 Tokyo KYODO in English 1255 GMT 17 Feb 92

[Text] Niigata, Feb. 17 KYODO—Officials from Niigata and Russia agreed Monday to work together to set up a regular air route between Niigata and Vladivostok among other measures to promote friendship across the Japan Sea.

Meeting at the Niigata prefectural office, Gov. Kiyoshi Kaneko and Vladimir Kuznetsov, head of the Russian Coastal Administration, signed a communique which called on both sides to cooperate in setting up an airlink at the earliest possible date.

The communique also listed plans for Niigata to dispatch a "prefectural citizens' boat" to Vladivostok in July for a commemorative event in the city as well as a mutual exchange of office personnel from the start of this fiscal year.

Niigata will also host in October a Japan Sea coast "Ekiden" relay race with participation from other coastal regions.

Kuznetsov said talks with Russian civil aviation authorities are making progress but added he hopes the first regular flight to Vladivostok would be ready this summer for the height of the tourist season.

Asked about the Niigata "citizens' boat," Kaneko said he plans to head a group of about 400 to the Russian Far East port city.

Russian Ambassador Seeks Economic Aid, Capital

OW1802093592 Tokyo KYODO in English 0913 GMT 18 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 18 KYODO—Russian Ambassador Lyudvig Chizhov called Tuesday for stepped-up Japanese economic aid and private capital inflows for his country and attempted to dispel mounting concerns over hyperinflation there.

Chizhov told a lecture meeting of ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) parliamentarians, "Russia has succeeded in bringing hyperinflation under control."

"Although prices may inch up further, our economy will gradually recover stability," the Russian diplomat told the group, which includes both Japanese and Russian parliamentarians.

His comments came amid reports of economic instability and adverse effects of Russian President Boris Yeltsin's price decontrol policy which are frightening Japanese industrialists from investing in Russia.

After the Russian Government stopped providing subsidies to formerly state-owned industries, commodity prices soared, sparking protests from citizens.

In his address to the group, headed by former International Trade and Industry Minister Keijiro Murata, Chizhov said, "it is very important (for Russia) to obtain foreign assistance. I strongly hope to see foreign capital flowing into my country."

Before the ambassador's lecture, the group adopted a resolution changing its name from the Japan-Soviet Union Paliamentarians' League to the Japan-Commonwealth of Independent States Parliamentarians' League, officials said.

MITI Sending Nuclear Survey Mission to CIS

OW1802134292 Tokyo KYODO in English 1326 GMT 18 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 18 KYODO—The Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) said Tuesday it will send two missions to the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) to look into ways in which Japan can cooperate in industrial development and nuclear power plant safety.

Ministry officials said the industrial survey mission will tour Moscow and Kiev from March 15 to 22 and exchange views with Russian economic and financial officials on ways to promote the shift to a market-oriented economy.

The other delegation, made up of engineers, scholars, and officials from the ministry's natural resources and energy agency, will visit the CIS in May to survey the safety of atomic power plants, the officials said.

That group will exchange views with Russian officials on the training of Russian engineers in Japan, they said.

Group To Study Energy Cooperation With Russia

OW1802083892 Tokyo KYODO in English 0806 GMT 18 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 18 KYODO—Japan will dispatch a mission to Russia on March 2 to study potential Japanese cooperation in energy policy, energy efficiency, and environmental problems, Foreign Ministry officials said Tuesday.

Officials said the 10-day, 20-member mission, to be headed by Toyoaki Ikuta, president of the Institute of Energy Economics, will include experts from the public and private sectors.

The Japanese mission is to exchange views with officials of Russia's Ministry of Fuel and Energy and other government organizations, and will inspect oil and natural gas facilities in the Tyumen Oil Field, as well as coal facilities.

Tokyo is anxious to help increase Russia's capacity to produce energy for domestic use and for export, Foreign Ministry Spokesman Masamichi Hanabusa told reporters.

He said the mission will assess "the supply and demand situation of energy, energy policy, energy efficiency, and environmental problems...with a view to study practical ways in which Japan can extend cooperation to the country in the future."

The team will not inspect any Russian nuclear facilities, Hanabusa said.

Hokkkaido Group Leaves for Russian Visa Talks

OW1702100692 Tokyo KYODO in English 0948 GMT 17 Feb 92

[Text] Niigata, Feb. 17 KYODO—A delegation of the Hokkaido Prefectural Government left here Monday aboard an Aeroflot flight for the Russian Far East to hold talks on a visa-free visit program between Japan and four disputed islands off Hokkaido.

The five-member delegation is scheduled to arrive at Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk, Sakhalin Tuesday to discuss the matter Thursday and Friday with representatives from the Sakhalin government as well as Russian islanders from Kunashiri, Etorofu and Shikotan.

Japan has long called for the return of the three islands and the Habomai group of islets, which were seized by the former Soviet Union during the closing days of World War II.

Last October, Japan and the former Soviet Union agreed on the visa-free visit scheme which is based on a proposal made by former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev during his visit to Japan last April.

During the two-day meeting, the Hokkaido delegation and Russian representatives will discuss a concrete implementation plan of the scheme, which is expected to be realized as early as April.

They will also discuss a plan to hold a joint symposium on the territorial dispute in Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk, proposed by Hokkaido Gov. [Governor] Takahiro Yokomichi last November.

Sports Games Planned With Russians on Kunashiri

OW1502090292 Tokyo KYODO in English 0833 GMT 15 Feb 92

[Text] Moscow, Feb. 15 KYODO—Japanese and Russian groups have agreed to hold a sports festival in September on Kunashiri Island, one of four islands disputed by the two countries, organizers said Saturday.

The festival, scheduled to run September 4-5, will feature wrestlers, boxers, karate athletes, and rock musicians from the two countries as well as wrestlers from the United States, Mexico, and Canada, they said.

On Friday, representatives from the Japanese group, organized by Antonio Inoki, a wrestler-turned politician in the House of Councillors, signed an interim agreement on the event with the Russian group at Moscow University.

The Russian group includes the president of the university.

The formal agreement will be signed in Japan next month, the Japanese group said.

Organizers said they hope the festival on Kunashiri will contribute to international peace and cultural exchanges in Japan and Russia, despite the bilateral territorial dispute.

They said the Supreme Soviet of Russia's subcommittee on the Asia-Pacific Region has indicated it will cooperate in the event and the Sakhalin Government also favors it.

The Japanese group members said they hope the Kunashiri islanders also will be cooperative and the Foreign Ministry will support the festival by issuing visas.

Japan claims Kunashiri and three other islands just off northeastern Hokkaido which the former Soviet Union captured at the end of World War II. Russia now controls them.

South Koreans File Suit for Government Apology

OW1702043992 Tokyo KYODO in English 0420 GMT 17 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 17 KYODO—About 1,100 South Koreans sued the Japanese Government Monday seeking an apology and compensation for the sufferings of those conscripted during World War II.

The suit, filed with Tokyo District Court, does not specify the amount of damages sought but demands that Japan admit its obligation to compensate the plaintiffs, said Yi Kim Su [name as received], head of the Kwangju chapter of the Association of Pacific War Victims and Their Relatives.

Yi, 73, and seven other representatives of the plaintiffs were in Japan for the filing of the suit.

The plaintiffs—the largest group ever among similar suits asserting Japanese responsibility for the war and a government obligation to compensate victims—comprise some 800 South Koreans conscripted by the Imperial Japanese Army during the war and 300 of their relatives.

Yi claimed her husband was conscripted in September 1942 and killed on the Tarawa Island of the Gilbert Islands in the western Pacific in November 1943 at the age of 24.

The plaintiffs were not represented by attorneys, and, as a result, it may take time for the complex trial to begin, court sources said.

Stricter Controls Put on Illegal Korean Fishing

OW1402220492 Tokyo KYODO in English 1445 GMT 14 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 14 (KYODO)—Japan and South Korea agreed Friday to strengthen controls over illegal fishing by South Korean fishing boats in Japanese territorial waters, officials at the Foreign Ministry said.

In working-level talks held in Tokyo, negotiators agreed that the South Korean side will voluntarily restrict trawling in the seas off Hokkaido, northern Japan, for one month during the April-August period over three years beginning this year.

They also agreed that Japanese patrol boats with South Korean officials aboard will increase the number of patrolling days in the seas off western Japan.

Patrols will also be started in waters off the Sanin and Hokuriku areas on the Sea of Japan.

The two countries have been pondering how to prevent illegal fishing by South Korean boats in Japanese waters after some 1,000 such cases were uncovered in 1991.

The new accord will remain in force until the end of 1994, but the two countries will start reviewing it in or after January 1994, the officials said.

Government Agrees on Rescheduling Polish Debts

OW1402085792 Tokyo KYODO in English 0846 GMT 14 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 14 KYODO—Japan has reached an accord with Poland on debt relief measures for the East European country, Foreign Ministry officials said Friday.

The officials said representatives of both countries exchanged diplomatic notes in Warsaw earlier in the day, formalizing an accord recently reached on details of debt rescheduling, including interest rates.

The debts covered by the measures include about 18.8 billion yen owed by the Commercial Bank of Warsaw to the Export-Import Bank of Japan and certain Japanese commercial banks.

Also covered are about 132.6 billion yen and 163.4 million dollars in commercial debts owed by Polish debtors to Japanese creditors and insured by the Japanese Government.

The officials said the agreed repayment method for the debts to the Ex-Im Bank involves 22 semiannual installments starting in 2003. For the commercial debts, Poland will pay 28 semiannual installments from 1995.

Indonesia's Alatas Discusses East Timor Issue

OW1702162392 Tokyo KYODO in English 1507 GMT 17 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 17 KYODO—Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas on Monday night met the head of a Japanese Diet group on East Timor to discuss the shooting of local residents by government troops in the former Portuguese colony last year.

After the two-hour meeting at a hotel in Tokyo, Satsuki Eda, who heads the nonpartisan Diet Members Forum on East Timor, told reporters that Alatas denied the government's role in ordering troops to fire in the November incident. Eda, who also heads the opposition United Social Democratic Party, said Alatas asked to meet leaders of the forum during his stopover before heading to North America and Europe.

The Diet group asked permission to send a Japanese research mission to East Timor during the meeting, Eda added. Alatas said Indonesia welcomes the idea but added tensions remain high in Dili, capital of the former Portuguese colony, Eda said.

Eda's group submitted a petition to Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa last December requesting a review of Japan's aid policy to Indonesia following the mass killing by soldiers in East Timor.

Micho Watanabe: Aid to Indonesia To Continue

OW1702121292 Tokyo KYODO in English 1203 GMT 17 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 17 KYODO—The international community is waiting to see whether Indonesia's justice system will deal fairly with soldiers and civilians implicated in last year's shooting incident in East Timor, Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe said Monday.

Watanabe also told Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas in an hourlong meeting that Japan still intends to continue providing Indonesia with official development assistance, ministry officials said.

Alatas arrived in Japan on Sunday as part of a mission seeking to explain his government's handling of the massive shooting in Dili, the capital of the former Portuguese colony.

An Indonesian Government commission investigating the incident said last December that 50 people were killed and more than 90 were injured. Eyewitnesses and independent sources, however, say the death toll topped 100.

Indonesian President Suharto reportedly told U.N. Special Envoy Amos Wako in Jakarta last Friday that those who gave the orders to shoot and soldiers who carried them out would be prosecuted.

Officials quoted Alatas as telling Watanabe that the international community should wait patiently for the two-track judicial process involving military and civilian courts to be completed.

He also said he hopes those concerned understand that civilians arrested after the incident might be dealt with more quickly than the soldiers involved.

Suharto sacked two senior military officials and ordered the establishment of a committee to look into steps the military might take after the report was released.

The Indonesian president further pledged to investigate the fate of missing persons in East Timor.

Watanabe said Japan is pleased Suharto responded swiftly after receiving the report, thus muting international criticism.

Alatas said accusations that the incident was akin to "Indonesia's Tiananmen" were "unfair."

He said that unlike the latter incident, in which Chinese forces fired on pro-democracy demonstrators in Beijing's Tiananmen Square in June 1989, the incident in East Timor was not sanctioned by the government.

He noted that the demonstration which preceded the shooting in Dili had the government's approval.

Alatas claimed that the demonstration was not entirely peaceful but hastened to add soldiers were not therefore justified in opening fire.

The mission headed by Alatas is also set to visit Europe and North America.

Government Considers Environmental Loans to PRC

OW1702152392 Tokyo KYODO in English 1358 GMT 17 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 17 KYODO—Japan is looking into the possibility of granting fresh loans to China to be used for prevention of acid rain, which is believed to also affect Japan, a government source said Monday.

In the past, the Japanese Government has extended loans to China for construction purposes such as the building of railroads and bridges.

But the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI), citing the importance of upgrading China's environmental and energy technology, hopes to provide cash assistance to the country to help it set up desulfurization equipment.

The loan would be the first extended to China for the express purpose of environmental protection.

MITI Minister Kozo Watanabe is planning to visit China as early as late March.

At the earliest, the actual extension of the loan could take place in fiscal 1992 starting next April after Tokyo confirms Beijing's stance on the matter.

Toppan Printing Establishes Venture in China

OW1702064792 Tokyo KYODO in English 0630 GMT 17 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 17 KYODO—Toppan Printing Co. said Monday it has inaugurated a joint printing venture in China with its Hong Kong subsidiary, becoming the first major Japanese printing firm to move into the Chinese market.

Japan's No. 2 printing company said the new firm, capitalized at 13.6 million Hong Kong dollars, will build a printing shop in Shenzhen, a special economic zone in Guangdong Province, with completion scheduled for March next year.

The company said the new firm, Toppan Printing (Shenzhen) Co., will have annual production worth about 1 billion yen, of which 60 percent will be publications destined for Japan.

The Shenzhen factory will also turn out paper packages for sale in China and Hong Kong, the company said.

Toppan's subsidiary in Hong Kong was established in 1963 as the company's production base in Southeast Asia.

LDP Leaders Hint at Coalition Rule After Jul

OW1702081592 Tokyo KYODO in English 0718 GMT 17 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 17 KYODO—Top officials of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) hinted Monday that the party may have to form a coalition government if it suffers a setback in the House of Councillors election in July.

LDP Secretary General Tamisuke Watanuki and Executive Council Chairman Koko Sato made the remarks in a meeting with EC Vice President Leon Brittan.

Yoshiro Mori, chairman of LDP Policy Affairs Research Council, also joined them in their talks with Brittan in the Diet building.

Asked by Brittan about the possibility of the party losing power after the July upper house elections, Watanuki and Sato said the LDP does not have to hand over power to the opposition camp.

In the worst scenario, the two LDP leaders said, two or three cabinet posts may be given to middle-of-the road opposition parties in a coalition government.

Regarding the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade talks, Mori proposed a cooling-off period among Japan, the United States and the 12-nation European Community to find solutions to the stalemated agricultural negotiations.

Brittan rejected the proposal, saying such a moratorium or any kind of exceptions should not be allowed in the effort to successfully conclude the Uruguay Round.

Brittan also met with Social Democratic Party (SDP) Chairman Makoto Tanabe, who officials said expressed his party's determination to wrestle power from the LDP in the next one or two years.

Opposition Plans Joint Anticorruption Bill

OW1602130892 Tokyo KYODO in English 1215 GMT 16 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 16 KYODO—Leaders of four of Japan's opposition parties tentatively agreed Sunday to jointly propose a bill to help prevent political corruption.

The agreement came in a television program that brought together the four party chairmen—Makoto Tanabe of the Social Democratic Party (SDP), Koshiro Ishida of Komeito, Keigo Ouchi of the Democratic Socialist Party (DSP), and Tetsuzo Fuwa of the Japanese Communist Party (JCP).

Ouchi noted the similarity of bills produced separately by his party, the SDP, and Komeito, and suggested submitting a single bill to the Diet.

Tanabe basically agreed to the idea and Fuwa indicated the communists are ready to participate in inter-opposition talks to thrash out a joint bill.

The three bills prepared separately focus on revising the Public Office Election Law and the Political Fund Control Law, and enacting a political ethics law, officials from the parties said.

The proposed joint bill would incorporate those measures but would likely stop short of specifying new steps to prevent corruption, the officials said.

The issue is timely as a former state minister has been charged with accepting millions of yen in bribes from Kyowa Co., a now defunct steel frame maker, and politicians are reportedly tied to questionable loans related to the breach-of-trust case involving Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin Co., a parcel delivery company.

The three noncommunist opposition parties demand that if convicted, lawmakers automatically lose their status as Diet members and be restricted from running for election, officials said.

They also urged greater openness in political fund-raising activities, limiting to one the number of political organizations that can administer a politician's funds, the officials said.

The threshold should be lowered for the minimum amount of political funds a lawmaker must declare publicly, the parties said, calling for faster judicial procedures in investigating election irregularities.

The SDP and Komeito aim to limit the civil rights of those convicted of corruption, even if they receive suspended sentences, officials from the parties said.

DSP officials said their party's bill calls for stricter penalties than the other two, proposing that high-ranking officials of political parties also be subject to further punishment for bribery convictions.

Former Minister Indicted on Additional Charge

OW1702040992 Tokyo KYODO in English 0339 GMT 17 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 17 KYODO—Prosecutors indicted former state minister Fumio Abe on additional charges Monday of accepting 10 million yen in bribes from Kyowa Co.

They also filed new charges against Goro Moriguchi, a former vice president of the now-bankrupt steel frame manufacturer, for allegedly giving that bribe to Abe to gain influence for the company.

Abe used the additional 10 million yen to refurbish his Tokyo condominium around August 1989, prosecutors said.

With Monday's indictments, prosecutors said they have concluded their probe into the cash-for-favors scandal.

Abe, a 69-year-old former state minister and director general of the Hokkaido and Okinawa Development Agencies, was indicted February 1 on charges of taking 80 million yen in bribes from Kyowa.

Moriguchi, 48, was indicted the same day for allegedly making those bribes.

Prosecutors say Moriguchi gave Abe a total of 530 million yen, including the 90 million yen in alleged bribes, when Abe was in the cabinet of former Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu from August 1989 to February 1990.

The scandal first surfaced last July when Moriguchi was alleged to have defrauded two trading houses of 3.65 billion yen by fabricating contract documents for bogus steel-frame orders in collusion with a senior official of Marubeni Corp., a major trading firm.

Kajiyama Threatens To Resign Because of Scandal

OW1802111292 Tokyo KYODO in English 1040 GMT 18 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 18 KYODO—The ruling Liberal Democratic Party's chief legislative manager threatened Tuesday to resign amid intraparty criticism over his handling of a cash-for-favors scandal in parliament.

Seiroku Kajiyama, chairman of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) Diet Affairs Committee, offered the resignation during a meeting with LDP Vice President Shin Kanemaru, party sources said.

Kanemaru, who was instrumental in pushing Kajiyama to the post January 17, however, persuaded him to remain in the post, the sources said.

Some LDP legislators have strongly opposed to the summoning of former Prime Minister Zenko Suzuki and former State Minister Jun Shiozaki to testify before the Diet, as called for by the opposition camp.

Suzuki and Shiozaki are reportedly to be among recipients of funds funneled by a now defunct steel-frame maker Kyowa Co. earlier this month. Former State Minister Fumio Abe was indicted for allegedly taking 90 million yen in bribes from Kyowa.

Kajiyama has been at the center of interparty negotiations over the summoning of witnesses.

Budget deliberations in the House of Representatives have been at a standstill since early February, when the LDP and opposition parties locked horns over whether witnesses should be called to testify on payments allegedly made by Kyowa.

Diet To Summon Witnesses, Resume Business

OW1802130992 Tokyo KYODO in English 1300 GMT 18 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 18 KYODO—Ruling and opposition parties agreed Tuesday to resume business in the Diet on Wednesday after agreeing to summon former Prime Minister Zenko Suzuki to the legislature as an unsworn witness over a cash-for-favors scandal, officials said.

Ending a two-week standoff at the House of Representatives Budget Committee, opposition parties agreed to resume budget deliberations after the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) dropped its opposition to the summoning of Suzuki before the committee, officials said.

Suzuki will testify at a committee session next Tuesday afternoon.

The LDP agreed to accept the opposition demand to subpoena Suzuki to answer opposition questions about his role in the Kyowa bribery scandal.

The scandal implies [as received] former State Minister Fumio Abe, who has been indicted for allegedly taking 90 million yen in bribes from Kyowa Co., a now-defunct steel-frame maker.

Until last December, Abe served as secretary general of the LDP's No. 2 faction led by Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa and previously headed by Suzuki.

The LDP and opposition camp also agreed to summon as a sworn witness Diet member Jun Shiozaki, a former state minister and former director general of the Management and Coordination Agency, who reportedly received 20 million yen from Kyowa. Shiozaki will also testify at the committee next Tuesday, officials said.

Media reports said Shiozaki acted on Kyowa's behalf when he complied with Abe's request to visit the Tokyo head office of Marubeni Corp., a major trading house, in an alleged attempt to persuade Marubeni not to sever its business relations with Kyowa despite a fraud scandal involving fictitious steel frame orders.

Goro Moriguchi, the former Kyowa vice president indicted for allegedly bribing Abe, and a senior Marubeni official are on trial on charges of defrauding other trading houses of (?millions) of yen by placing bogus steel orders.

On Tuesday, the LDP and the opposition camp also agreed to hold public hearings on the budget—a procedure required for Diet passage of a budget—on February 26 and 27, starting one day after Suzuki and Shiozaki testify, political sources said.

The resumption of Diet business was secured after the No. 2 opposition party Komeito agreed to rescind its demand that Suzuki testify as a sworn witness before the Diet.

Komeito said it had been pressing that demand to ensure that Suzuki tell the truth on his role in the Kyowa case when he testifies.

Sworn witnesses are liable for perjury charges if they give false testimony, whereas unsworn witnesses cannot be held criminally liable for false statements.

Earlier, the LDP was clinging to its position that Suzuki be quizzed at his Tokyo home, rather than before the Diet, as the opposition demands, the sources said.

Kyowa reportedly gave 160 million yen to Abe, who allegedly told Kyowa the money was needed to obtain Suzuki's help in securing permission to develop a golf course in Ogawa, Ibaraki Prefecture.

Suzuki's political secretary has denied receiving any money or request from Kyowa in connection with the golf course.

Link Found Between Former Minister, Corporation

OW1802134892 Tokyo KYODO in English 1319 GMT 18 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 18 KYODO—Former Transport Minister Hiroshi Mitsuzuka delivered a greeting to a 1986 New Year's gathering of Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin Co., which is currently involved in a massive loan scandal, informed sources said Tuesday.

The disclosure was the first solid indication of Mitsuzuka's link with Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin.

Mitsuzuka, head of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party's No. 3 faction, reportedly delivered a New Year's greeting to a Sagawa Kyubin party at the Shin Takanawa Prince Hotel in Tokyo on January 20, 1986, shortly after being tapped as the new transport minister.

Mitsuzuka reportedly attended the party at the invitation of the parcel delivery firm's then-president, Hiroyasu Watanabe, who was arrested (?last week) on suspicion of breach of trust for allegedly extending a huge amount of loans and loan guarantees, in what appeared to develop into a political contributions scandal.

In the mid-1980s, the Kyoto-based Sagawa Kyubin Group was expanding its transport network nationwide, with annual sales reaching 250 billion yen.

The firm's political connections at the time also appeared to be expanding to deal with severe labor conditions and an increasing number of traffic accident problems, the sources said.

Mitsuzuka, also a former head of the LDP's Policy Affairs Research Council, said he had no recollection of attending the Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin's New Year party.

Watanabe reportedly arranged in December 1985 to delay the 1986 New Year's party from the second Sunday in January—as it had been held for two years—to January 20 to secure Mitsuzuka's attendance, the sources said.

The former transport minister's connections with the Sagawa Kyubin Group appear to extend back over a number of years when he was receiving a monthly 8 million yen fee from Tohoku Sagawa Kyubin Co. as a construction consultant.

The connection was brought out during a trial in the Sendai District Court over the dismissal of an executive of Tohoku Sagawa Kyubin.

Diet Member on Funds From 'Scandal-Ridden' Firm

OW1702145092 Tokyo KYODO in English 1441 GMT 17 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 17 KYODO—A veteran ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) Dietman confirmed Monday that his local supporters sold 1,500 fund-raising party tickets worth 30 million yen to the scandal-ridden Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin Co.

Keisuke Nakanishi, chairman of the House of Representatives Steering Committee, told KYODO News Service that his office processed the massive sale and properly issued receipts to the parcel delivery firm.

But Nakanishi said he had no direct association with Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin Co. executives and added his supporters sold the party tickets to the firm through an individual in Tokyo.

The supporters organized the party in Nakanishi's constituency of Wakayama Prefecture in western Japan on December 12, 1987, in honor of his 10-year career in parliament.

Japanese politicians commonly hold such parties and garner campaign funds by selling tickets.

Informed sources quoted Nakanishi as saying he did not know the parcel delivery firm had bought the tickets until a year after the event was held.

He also said he attended a yearly meeting hosted by former Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin Co. President Hiroyasu Watanabe, who was arrested February 14 along with three other executives charged with breach of trust.

The meeting, hosted by Watanabe, was also attended by former LDP Secretary General Ichiro Ozawa and other senior LDP members, the sources said.

Women Legislators Vow To Increase Strength

OW1502104092 Tokyo KYODO in English 1022 GMT 15 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 15 KYODO—Seven Diet members and 61 local assembly members, mostly women, launched a citizens' group Saturday to boost the number of legislative seats held by women to 30 percent of the total from the present 4 percent.

Women account for half of the population, "but we can hardly say that their power to make pronouncements in the political arena is great," the 68 elected representatives said in an appeal inaugurating the new body, tentatively called the Alliance of Feminist Representatives.

The seven Diet members present included opposition members Satsuki Eda, Manae Kubo and Tamako Nakanishi but none of them were from the country's ruling Liberal Democratic Party.

"That it is difficult for men to speak for women is the same as the fact that someone chosen from a commercial district in Tokyo cannot represent people living on farms in Hokkaido in northern Japan," said the appeal, read before a public meeting attended by some 100 citizens.

"We think a truly democratic world means one in which representatives are chosen from the group known as 'women,' so that the will of women is adequately reflected in the government," the appeal said.

In addition to pushing for more women candidates, the group plans to act as a watchdog to ensure that existing and new legislation reflects the principle of sexual equality.

Tokyo metropolitan Assemblywoman Mariko Mitsui, a co-founder of the group, said that improving the status of women is necessary if Japan is to improve its poor record in the election of female representatives.

A 1991 international survey of the percentage of female legislators in 130 nations placed Japan at No. 110, between Algeria and Egypt.

In Japan, it is usually local government bosses who are successful in politics, and women are not found in local leadership positions, said Mitsui, a member of the largest opposition party, the Social Democratic Party.

Women also lack financial resources, Mitsui said, noting that on average women earn only 60 percent of the wages earned by men.

Some of the two dozen elected women officials who addressed the meeting told how their attempts to debate issues such as childcare, sexual harassment, and the discrepancy in wages were often given low priority or outright rejected by their male colleagues.

"In my farming village, women don't have a political voice because they are afraid if they say 'no' they will be criticized," said Midori Teramachi, a member of the 16-member Taketomicho Assembly in Gifu Prefecture.

Teramachi, an organic farmer, attributed her unexpected success at the polls to a corruption scandal that forced one-fourth of the assemblymen to leave office.

The national group, which is open to men, plans to urge major political parties to field more women candidates in the House of Councillors election expected in July.

Quoting a former French minister of women's rights, Yvette Rudy, the appeal said that women's opinions can be reflected in policymaking if women make up 30 percent of representatives, but that "nothing can be done when less than 10 percent of the representatives are female."

Official Suggests G-7 Agreed on Rate for Yen

OW1702104992 Tokyo KYODO in English 1038 GMT 17 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 17 KYODO—A top official of the Ministry of Finance (MOF) suggested Monday that the major industrial countries are targeting the yen's exchange rate against the U.S. dollar around the 124-125 yen level.

The official said the yen has weakened a bit too much against the dollar in the recent currency market. "The recent moves did not reflect the economic conditions (of major countries)," said the official, who refused to be identified.

"I would say the level (of the yen) at the time of the Group of Seven (G-7) meeting (of their finance ministers and central bankers) held in New York last month is not too bad," he said.

His words apparently suggest the G-7 countries agreed to keep the yen at around the 124-125 yen level.

Whether the Japanese monetary authorities intervened in the market Monday to support the yen, the official refused to confirm.

There was a widespread rumor that the Bank of Japan (BOJ) stepped into the market to prop up the yen.

But the MOF official said the yen's weak rebound despite the rumor "seems to reflect the improvement of the U.S. economy in real terms."

MITI Chief on Yen-Supporting Intervention

OW1802031292 Tokyo KYODO in English 0201 GMT 18 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 18 KYODO—International Trade and Industry Minister Kozo Watanabe welcomed Tuesday the intervention the previous day by the Japanese and U.S. central banks to support the yen against the U.S. dollar.

Watanabe said "it is desirable" that the central banks intervene jointly in the foreign exchange market to sell dollars for the yen to avoid drastic fluctuations in exchange rates.

Mentioning the recent trend of the dollar-yen exchange trading at a press conference, Watanabe said, "personally I think a level of around 120 yen for the dollar is preferable."

Watanabe also indicated that he favored another cut in the official discount rate, saying, "it is necessary to lower interest rates further to prevent a slump in corporate capital spending and housing starts."

The key rate the Bank of Japan sets on loans to commercial banks was cut three times last year by half a percentage point each time, and now stands at 4.5 percent per annum.

Hata Says Dollar's Value Still Too High

OW1802030792 Tokyo KYODO in English 0154 GMT 18 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 18 KYODO—Finance Minister Tsutomu Hata indicated Tuesday the U.S. dollar is still too high against the yen despite coordinated dollar-selling intervention Monday by the Japanese and U.S. central banks.

"The United States (monetary authorities) also seem to consider the current dollar exchange level is too high," Hata told the press after the day's cabinet meeting.

Hata's comment indicates that he thinks the current exchange level is not desirable for good Japan-U.S. relations, market watchers said.

The dollar fell 1.02 yen to come down to the 126 yen level in Tokyo on Monday as a result of dollar-selling intervention by the Japanese and U.S. central banks.

But the dollar was again edging up to the 127 yen level in early Tokyo trading on Tuesday, because of lingering expectations of a higher dollar, backed by beliefs that the U.S. economy would start picking up shortly, according to market watchers.

Ministry Remains Cool Toward Rate Cut Calls

OW1302124092 Tokyo KYODO in English 1127 GMT 13 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 13 KYODO—A top Finance Ministry official Thursday turned a cold shoulder to mounting calls for another cut in Japan's official discount rate to prop up the slowing economy.

The official, who requested anonymity, pointed out that a cut in the key lending rate will cause a drop in rates on savings as well, hurting pensioners.

Asked about the current economic climate, he said he thinks it is still on a firm footing, although conditions vary from one industry to another.

Shin Kanemaru, vice president of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), said in a lecture in Tokyo on Thursday that the key rate should be cut by 0.5 percentage point to 4 percent per annum.

The Bank of Japan last reduced the key rate by 0.5 point to 4.5 percent on December 30.

Suematsu Questions Need To Lower Interest Rate

OW1802122092 Tokyo KYODO in English 1111 GMT 18 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 18 KYODO—A banking industry leader Tuesday challenged a suggestion made by the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) that commercial banks should lower interest rates on loans to stimulate the domestic economy.

Kenichi Suematsu, chairman of the Federation of Bankers Associations of Japan, argued that interest rates on commercial loans have declined in line with the official discount rate set by the Bank of Japan.

The LDP urged commercial banks last week to lower interest rates on loans along with other pump-priming measures.

Suematsu, who also is president of Mitsui Taiyo Kobe Bank, told a news conference that fiscal measures are needed to shore up the domestic economy, urging the government to push for early passage of the 1992 fiscal budget in the Diet.

Suematsu spurned the argument that commercial banks are putting priority on meeting the net worth requirement set by the Bank for International Settlements (BIS) rather than offering more loans.

He said commercial banks are trying to deal with the issue by reducing assets held overseas.

Suematsu, however, admitted that the ratio of net assets to operating funds held by commercial banks has declined about 0.5 percent since the end of September last year because of the stock market slump.

Referring to a scandal involving the major parcel delivery firm Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin Co., Suematsu expressed regret that financial institutions had failed to check the flow of funds to enterprises controlled by an underworld organization.

The former president and managing director of Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin were arrested last week on suspicion of aggravated breach of trust for allegedly inflicting financial damages to the company by helping the country's No. 2 crime syndicate Inagawa-Kai obtain huge loans from commercial institutions by guaranteeing repayment on its behalf.

Yasuda Reacts Negatively on Cut in Discout Rate

OW1402133692 Tokyo KYODO in English 1324 GMT 14 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 14 KYODO—Vice Finance Minister Hiroshi Yasuda said Friday he is against another cut in the Bank of Japan's official discount rate, despite the ruling Liberal Democratic Party's call for such a measure.

Speaking at a regular press meeting, Yasuda reacted negatively toward the LDP's proposal to the government that another disount rate reduction is urgently needed to shore up the nation's wobbling economy.

A top Finance Ministry official also indicated there is no change in the ministry's basic stance to continue monitoring the effects of the latest discount rate cut at the end of December.

Yasuda and the Finance Ministry official, who requested anonymity, were referring to a set of measures the LDP proposed to the government earlier Friday to prop up the economy and revive the slumping stock market.

About the measures to revitalize the stock market, Yasuda said the Finance Ministry will examine them from a medium- and long-term viewpoint, because a prolonged stock market slump is a serious problem for the future of the Japanese economy.

A top Finance Ministry official also said the Japan Securities Dealers Association will soon come up with plans to set new rules on stock dividends.

The plans will include a way to raise the payout ratio—the percentage of a firm's profits that is paid out to shares in the form of dividends—to more than 30 percent for at least the next three fiscal years, he said.

Michio Watanabe on Hopes for Stock Prices Rise

OW1802131992 Tokyo KYODO in English 1300 GMT 18 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 18 KYODO—Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe on Tuesday expressed strong hopes for a hike in the nation's stock prices, saying the current level of the benchmark Nikkei 225 stock average is too low.

Watanabe was speaking to a group of businessmen in Tokyo.

"Stock prices should rise. I'm not saying that (the Nikkei 225 index) should be around 28,000 yen or 30,000 yen. But its current level of around 21,000 yen is just too low," he said.

Watanabe also stressed that the government should move quickly regarding the stock of Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corp. (NTT)

He called for allowing purchases of NTT stocks by foreign investors, lowering the proportion of the firm's shares owned by the government, and offering a part of the shares to shareholders gratis.

Toyota, Nissan Exports Fall From Year Ago

OW1802062892 Tokyo KYODO in English 0554 GMT 18 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 18 KYODO—Toyota Motor Corp. and Nissan Motor Co. announced Tuesday year-on-year declines in their exports in January.

Toyota's exports totaled 156,720 passenger cars and commercial vehicles last month, down 3.0 percent from a year earlier, while Nissan's exports came to 77,001, down 1.1 percent.

While Toyota's domestic sales increased 1.2 percent to 134,902 vehicles, those of Nissan fell 7.7 percent to 71,345, according to the companies.

Domestic production decreased for both companies—311,424 vehicles, down 4.3 percent, at Toyota and 182,831, down 0.1 percent at Nissan.

Auto Union Asks Cut in Hours To Boost Profits

OW1502121492 Tokyo KYODO in English 1142 GMT 15 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 15 KYODO—Japan's automobile workers union proposed Saturday that annual working hours be cut from more than 2,000 to 1,800 to promote the auto industry's prosperity.

The 1,800-hour figure is a fiscal 1992 target put up by the Labor Ministry and the country's largest labor organization, Rengo.

The Confederation of Japan Automobile Workers' Unions, releasing a report at an auto industry forum in Tokyo, said Japan is the world's No. 1 producer of automobiles but that the industry faces long working hours, low profitability, and trade friction with other countries.

Automakers cannot make profits, workers are suffering from chronic fatigue, and the country is under severe criticism from abroad, the report said.

The report, blaming those hardships on excessive competition among carmakers, proposed slowing the pace of restyling efforts, reducing the number of models, and cutting working hours to realize fair international competition and correct excessive domestic competition.

Working hours in key industries in Japan averaged 2,016 a year in 1991, 150 to 350 hours longer than in the United States, Germany, France, or Britain.

Wholesale Prices Continue 'Downtrend' in Jan

OW1402105192 Tokyo KYODO in English 1023 GMT 14 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 14 KYODO—Japan's domestic wholesale prices continued the recent downtrend in January, posting the largest year-on-year decline in three years, the Bank of Japan (BOJ) said Friday.

Domestic wholesale prices fell 0.2 percent in January from December, and 0.6 percent from the year-earlier level, the BOJ said.

It was the largest year-on-year downswing since December 1988, when the price index declined 1.0 percent from a year earlier, a BOJ official said.

The latest decline followed a similar 0.2 percent year-on-year dip in December.

The central bank official said lower prices of oil, oil-related products, nonferrous metals, and meat dragged the domestic index down.

Overall wholesale prices also fell a sharp 2.2 percent from a year earlier, posting their largest year-on-year decline since June 1987.

The overall index slid 0.6 percent from December.

The BOJ official said, "The price trend is stably entrenched."

Domestic wholesale prices have been in steady decline since January 1991, when the year-on-year rise hit a near-term peak of 2.6 percent.

Masaru Takagi, chief economist at Fuji Research Institute Corp., said, "The figures clearly show how bad a shape the domestic economy is now in."

"The supply-demand balance of commodities is softening rapidly," he said.

"The wholesale prices will continue falling for several months to come."

Takagi said the current inventory adjustment will continue at least until mid 1992, and the economy will not make a major recovery until autumn.

He claimed the BOJ should cut the official discount rate again to boost the economy.

"The conditions surrounding prices are fully set for another cut (in the benchmark rate)," he said.

Export prices in January fell 1.5 percent from December, and were down 3.9 percent from a year earlier.

Import prices plunged 3.7 percent from the previous month, and 18.2 percent from the same month last year.

Industry Output Posts Lowest Growth in 5 Years

OW1702082792 Tokyo KYODO in English 0743 GMT 17 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 17 KYODO—Japan's industrial production scored the lowest growth in five years in 1991, the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) reported Monday, providing another signal that the latest economic boom is coming to an end.

Output at factories and mines grew a seasonally unadjusted 2.1 percent last year, the lowest since the 0.2 percent decline recorded in 1986.

The actual growth, however, was even poorer, since the figure was buoyed by the rapid growth in December 1990.

If that distortion is taken into account, the output was down 0.2 percent, the ministry said.

The weak output is chiefly due to a glutted market after the years of fast economic expansion, MITI said in a separate report reviewing last year's production trend.

The report, released together with the industrial output figures, explained that built-up stockpiles of inventories, durable goods, houses, and corporate plants and equipment are making companies reluctant to boost output.

For instance, the quickly waning demand had inventories ballooning 13.1 percent from a year earlier last year.

MITI also said output posted a seasonally adjusted 1.3 percent fall in December last year rather than the expected 0.9 percent decline estimated earlier.

The figure follows flat growth in November and a 0.1 percent dip in October.

On a seasonally unadjusted basis, December output translates into a 1.9 percent year-to-year contraction.

Shipments shrank 2.2 percent in December from the previous month, revised downward from the originally reported 1.9 percent fall.

Inventories expanded 1.8 percent from November, compared with the original estimate of 1.6 percent growth.

Growth in Machinery Orders Slows to 3.9% in 1991

OW1202141492 Tokyo KYODO in English 1057 GMT 12 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 12 KYODO—The year-to-year growth in orders for industrial machines in Japan slowed down to 3.9 percent in 1991 from 6.6 percent in 1990 and 34.4 percent in 1989, an industry association said Wednesday.

The 1991 orders totaled 6,078.4 billion yen, marking a record high for the third consecutive year, the Japan Society of Industrial Machinery Manufacturers said.

The moderate growth pace reflects the economic slowdown in Japan, particularly in general manufacturing industries, it said.

Overall machinery orders in general manufacturing industries actually plunged for the first time in five years, by 11.0 percent from the previous year to 1,683.9 billion yen.

Among the general manufacturing industries, machinery orders from the automobile industry were particularly inactive, registering a 23.9 percent decline from the previous year, while those from the electric machine industry fell 16.5 percent and the chemical industry 19.3 percent.

In contrast, orders from the shipbuilding industry, which has come out of a slump, surged 45.5 percent, and those from the oil and coal products manufacturing industry rose 40.4 percent.

By category, machinery orders from the private nonmanufacturers category rose 34.0 percent, supported by active orders from the electric power industry which is facing growing demand for electricity.

Orders from the public sector rose 27.7 percent, led by the need for garbage disposal facilities, according to the association.

Resources Satellite Develops Antenna Trouble

OW1202042292 Tokyo KYODO in English 0359 GMT 12 FEB 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 12 KYODO—An earth resources research satellite launched Tuesday has developed trouble in its radar antenna, National Space Development Agency [NASDA] officials said Wednesday.

The antenna has not fully opened, officials said.

Japan's first natural resources exploration satellite, named Fuyo 1 after its successful launch Tuesday morning, is carrying the latest synthetic aperture radar equipment, capable of observing the earth's surface in detail even through thick clouds or at night.

NASDA's space center sent the command to open the antenna at 9:40 P.M. Tuesday, about 11 hours after the launch, but failed to receive data from the satellite confirming the antenna open, officials said.

Officials said other data show the antenna is half-opened, and they will try to correct the problem Wednesday night by changing the satellite's orientation.

Tokyo Plans To Support Environmental Projects

OW1702005292 Tokyo KYODO in English 2357 GMT 16 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 17 KYODO—A government-backed research institute will start projects jointly with major companies to develop technology for protection of the environment in fiscal 1992 beginning April 1, an industrial daily reported Monday.

Involved are three projects—development of catalysts to dissolve carbon dioxide, development of technology to recycle scrap iron, and research to mass-produce hydrogen by using microbes—the NIKKEI SANGYO SHIMBUN said.

The Kyoto-based Research Institute of Innovative Technology for the Earth (RITE), established in July 1990 with capital provided by the Ministry of International Trade and Industry, the Kansai Economic Federation, and prefectural governments in western Japan, will invest 5 billion to 10 billion yen in each of the three projects, aiming at turning them to practical use early in the next century, the paper said.

Japan will present the activities of the institute as one of its major efforts for environmental protection at the earth summit to be held in Brazil in June under the auspices of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, the newspaper said.

Government Plans To Accelerate CFC Phaseout

OW1302130292 Tokyo KYODO in English 1150 GMT 13 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 13 KYODO—Japan plans to accelerate the phasing out of ozone-destroying chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), following a U.S. decision to ban the chemicals from 1995, officials at the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) said Thursday.

But the officials said the CFCs include a cleaning agent for metals widely used by smaller industries in Japan and there are some doubts whether the country will be able to ban all the chemicals by 1995, as the U.S. is demanding.

They said MITI will work out plans on the phaseout for presentation to a meeting of signatories of the 1987 Montreal Protocol scheduled for next November in Denmark.

The plans will be based on a report a ministry advisory group will compile on the subject, the source said.

Under the Montreal Protocol, production and use of CFCs will be banned by 2000-2005. CFCs, which scientists say destroy the earth's protective ozone layer, are mainly used as coolants, propellants for aerosols, and cleaning agents for semiconductors.

Western industrial nations have been calling for an accelerated phaseout of CFCs amid growing public interest in protection of the global environment.

A commission of the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) is expected to conclude in a report to be published soon it would be technically feasible to ban all CFCs by 1995-1997 in advanced industrial nations.

Environment Agency Head Comments

OW1402070292 Tokyo KYODO in English 0616 GMT 14 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 14 KYODO—Environment Agency Chief Shozaburo Nakamura said Friday he instructed working-level agency officials to study whether Japan can bring forward its deadline for banning chemicals that destroy the ozone layer.

Japan has pledged to stop the production of ozone-depleting substances, including chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) used in refrigerators, air conditioners, and aerosol sprays, by 2000 under a 1986 international agreement known as the Montreal Protocol.

The depletion of the ozone layer leads to an increase in the amount of harmful ultraviolet radiation penetrating the earth's atmosphere, according to scientists.

U.S. President George Bush announced Tuesday that the United States would phase out ozone-destroying chemicals by 1995, five years earlier than planned.

Bush's announcement came after U.S. experts at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) reported that the ozone layer was being depleted at [a] much faster rate than had been believed.

Nakamura, speaking at a press conference after Friday's cabinet meeting, said he also ordered the officials to cooperate with the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) on the reduction of sulfuric substances contained in light oil as part of controlling exhaust gas from automobiles.

On Thursday, MITI officials said Japan plans to accelerate the phasing out of CFCs in response to the U.S. decision to ban the chemicals from 1995.

The MITI officials, however, said the CFCs include a cleaning agent for metals widely used by smaller industries in Japan and there are some doubts whether the country will be able to ban all the chemicals by the 1995 deadline.

Scientific Spacecraft Probe Begins Moon Orbit

OW1502151592 Tokyo KYODO in English 1416 GMT 15 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 15 KYODO—A Japanese scientific spacecraft was put into orbit around the moon Saturday, the Education Ministry's Institute of Space and Astronautical Science (ISAS) said.

The moon probe, Hiten, a cylindrical craft 85 centimeters long and 1.4 meters in diameter, has repeated "swing-by" motions to change its course by using the moon's gravity since it was launched in January 1990.

Scientists said Hiten slowed its flying speed through a reverse injection of fuel and went into a lunar orbit Saturday night.

Hiten is Japan's first scientific probe to orbit the moon.

The scientists said Hiten moved from an Earth orbit to a lunar orbit when it made its closest approach to the moon, about 420 kilometers away.

Most of its nearly 9 kilograms of remaining fuel were used in the reverse injection maneuver to slow Hiten's speed and place it in orbit around the moon, they said.

Hiten will stay in the orbit at an apogee of 50,000 kilometers and perigee of about 10,000 kilometers, conducting a survey of space dust around the moon, the scientists said.

Experimental Shuttle Model Reenters Atmosphere

OW1502040792 Tokyo KYODO in English 0342 GMT 15 Feb 92

[Text] Uchinoura, Kagoshima Pref., Feb. 15 KYODO—An experimental model of Japan's first unmanned space shuttle successfully reentered the atmosphere Saturday, officials at the Institute of Space and Astronautical Science said.

The institution conducted the experiment using the spacecraft to promote development of the unmanned space shuttle "Himes." It was the first trial since one failed in 1989.

A balloon carrying the spacecraft, which is two meters long and 1.5 meters wide, was launched at 6:04 A.M., from the Kagoshima Space Center in Uchinoura and reached an altitude of 19 kilometers two hours later, the officials said.

After being detached from the balloon, the aluminum-alloy craft fired its rocket booster and flew into space to an altitude of about 67 kilometers, they said.

It then reentered the atmosphere at Mach 3.6 and landed in the Pacific Ocean.

During its travel through the atmosphere, the craft, which is shaped like a U.S. space shuttle, sent to the space center various data indicating its air resistance capabilities and computer control system, the officials said.

Material for High-Density Memories Developed

OW1302035892 Tokyo KYODO in English 0004 GMT 13 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 13 KYODO—A group of Japanese scientists reported Thursday they have developed a new material which could be a substance for new optical displays and high-density, reusable memories for computers.

The new material is made from molybdenum trioxide.

The feat was announced in Britain's NATURE magazine published Thursday.

Akira Fujishima, professor of the engineering faculty's Department of Synthetic Chemistry at the University of Tokyo, and fellow scientists said they have succeeded in producing a film of the material one square centimeter in size with a thickness of one micron— one thousandth of a millimeter.

The material changes from colorless to blue in reaction to strong light and can be reversed by using an electric current in an electroconductive solution.

Fujishima said the material reacts to visible light such as common semiconductor laser sources which are relatively cheap.

If a way is found to make a larger size film with the material, it will be possible to produce higher-density memories with it than current memories like floppy disks, which are based on a magnetic recording formula, he said.

Circuit Made for High-Density Flash Memories

OW1802063892 Tokyo KYODO in English 0606 GMT 18 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 18 KYODO—Toshiba Corp. has developed a new row decoder circuit for high-density flash memories, company officials said Tuesday.

It includes a 16-megabit electrically erasable programmable read-only memory (EEPROM) device.

A flash EEPROM retains programmed data even after the power is shut off and can be erased and reprogrammed electrically while installed in a system.

The size of the new row decoder circuit has a structure 30 percent smaller than conventional ones used in four-megabit flash EEPROMS, the officials said.

High-density flash EEPROMS are expected to be used as secondary memories for computers, replacing floppy disks and hard disk drives, they said.

Recently, Sharp Corp. and U.S.-based Intel Corp., the leading maker of flash memories, teamed up to produce and mass market the innovative devices.

Sanyo Develops Low-Priced Desktop Supercomputer

OW1802001092 Tokyo KYODO in English 2342 GMT 17 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 18 KYODO—Sanyo Electric Co. has developed a low-priced desktop supercomputer that is capable of processing information at high speed, the NIKKEI SANGYO SHIMBUN reported Tuesday.

The non-Von Neumann, parallel computer has succeeded in processing information at a speed of 640 million floating-point operations per second (FLOPS), the industrial daily said.

The processing speed can be raised to 10 billion FLOPS because it is possible to connect up to 1,024 processors in the supercomputer, it said.

The company has not determined when it will sell the desktop supercomputer commercially, it said.

However, Sanyo officials were quoted as saying that the machine's price will be one-twentieth or one-thirtieth the cost of existing supercomputers with the same performance.

The officials said they believe that in the future the new supercomputer could replace high-priced machines in the fields of image processing and computer graphics, the daily said.

North Korea

Quayle's Comments on Defense Condemned

SK1502111792 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0544 GMT 15 Feb 92

["Outspoken Challenge to Peace and Disarmament"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang February 15 (KCNA)—U.S. Vice-President Quayle told an "annual security meeting" of the NATO that the United States was planning to develop a new anti-missile system and intend to expand the "star wars" program to the whole area of the European continent to "protect" the United States and its allies.

Commenting on this, a MINJU CHOSON analyst today says:

This is an outspoken challenge to the world's peaceloving people who desire peace, detente and disarmament and a criminal act going against the trend of the times.

The U.S. ruling quarters have never let a chance pass by without talking about the "end of the cold war," "advent of the era of pace," "detente" and "disarmament."

The U.S. imperialists, however, are invariably working behind the scenes to gratify their wild ambition for world supremacy by gaining preponderance of "strength."

They are squandering about 300 billion dollars in military spendings, while floundering with debts amounting to an astronomic figure.

They are not only steadily increasing military spendings but also directing a large portion of them to the development of sophisticated weapons.

Quayle's statement that a new anti-missile system would be developed and the adventurous "star wars" program to which all the world people are opposed would be expanded to the whole of Europe allegedly for "protection from a nuclear attack" is a sophism to justify their nuclear war moves and a token of their dominationist attempts to maintain the NATO, a product of the cold war, sine die and bring their allies under their control.

U.S. Said Continuing Policy of 'Confrontation'

SK1402101992 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0959 GMT 14 Feb 92

["Nothing Can Be Got by 'Strength'"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang February 14 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today hits at the anti-historical acts of the U.S. brasshats casting a chill again on the situation of the Korean peninsula.

The news analyst says:

U.S. Defence Secretary Cheney contended at U.S. Congress that military cut must not be hastened, arguing that a dramatic cutback of the U.S. forces overseas including those in South Korea might lead to regional disputes. And Powell, chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, stated that the U.S. military reduction program in South Korea would be pigeonholed until the threat of nuclear weapons development is removed in the DPRK.

These remarks suggest that the U.S. imperialists have chosen the Korean peninsula as a region for a next dispute and continue seeking the policy of confrontation of strength.

The "nuclear weapons development" of North Korea over which they are raising a hue and cry is a sheer fabrication to decieve public opinion within and without. It is no more than a preposterous sophism to justify their policy of confrontation of strength.

Backing down from the stand of "welcoming the DPRK's active step concerning the nuclear problem," the U.S. authorities are putting renewed pressure upon it, questioning "can an international nuclear inspection be a proper way of controlling nuclear weapons development?"

Such acts of theirs are motivated by a sinister intention to justify the U.S. forces' occupation of South Korea and the policy of confrontation of strength against the DPRK.

The U.S. imperialists are persistently sticking to the policy of confrontation of strength of the cold war era, maintaining their tight hold on South Korea as a military forward base against our Republic.

It is for this very purpose that they declared that they would leave their forces in South Korea, shelving the U.S. military cutback program and they feverishly stage provocative war exercises to attack our Republic almost everyday by bringing into South Korea a large number of Pacific-based warplanes and drawing into them the U.S. Air Force in South Korea and the puppet air force.

Facts show that the U.S. imperialists, in actuality, continue pursuing the policy of confrontation of strength, though they say in words that they want relaxation and peace on the Korean peninsula and welcome the inter-Korean agreement.

U.S., ROK Air, Ground Exercises Reported

SK1502054892 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0459 GMT 15 Feb 92

["Ceaseless War Exercises Against North"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang February 15 (KCNA)—The U.S. Pacific Airforce Command staged large-scale joint ground and aerial strike exercises in the sky above South Korea on February 12 and 13, according to military sources.

The U.S. Pacific Navy Command on February 12 mobilized scores of assault planes based in Japan proper and the Pacific region for a long-distance bombing exercise in an imaginary surprise attack on main targets in the coastal area of the northern half of Korea.

On the same day, the U.S. imperialists let fly an E-3A early warning plane based in Kadena, Okinawa, to command flying corps mobilized in an aerial war exercise in the sky above the Military Demarcation Line, while committing an electronic espionage on the northern half of Korea.

On the 13th, they sent a U-2 high-altitude strategic reconnaissance plane and various tactical reconnaissance planes and carried out intensive aerial espionage on the strategic depth and coastal area of the northern half of Korea.

In the meantime, the South Korean puppets at the instruction of the U.S. imperialists ran riot in a war exercise against the North on the ground and sea on February 13.

The warplanes mobilized in the military exercises against the North in the sky above South Korea on February 13 numbered more than 700.

Diplomatic Relations Established With Armenia

SK1502013792 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 2100 GMT 14 Feb 92

[Joint communique issued by the DPRK Government and the Armenian Republic Government on 13 February]

[Text] In order to develop friendly and cooperative relations between the two countries in all domains based on the principles of independence, equality, reciprocity, and noninterference in internal affairs, the DPRK Government and the Armenian Republic Government have agreed to establish ambassador-level diplomatic relations and to exchange diplomatic missions.

Authorized by the DPRK Government,

Yi In-kyu, vice foreign minister

Authorized by the Armenian Republic Government,

(Nava Sardizan), vice foreign minister

13 February 1992, Yerevan

Japan's Nuclear Plans Called 'Source of Disaster'

SK1502105192 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0538 GMT 15 Feb 92

["Sinister Intention To Seek Nuclear Arming"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang February 15 (KCNA)—Japan's nuclear arming will be a source of disaster to the Japanese people and it poses a grave threat to peace in Asia, says NODONG SINMUN in a commentary today.

Recalling that the Japanese authorities have resorted to despicable means in an effort to find a pretext to justify their nuclear arming, the news analyst says:

The Japanese authorities claim that charges against Japan's nuclear arming program are unfounded and Japan shall not produce, possess and introduce nuclear weapons in accordance with the "three non-nuclear principles."

And it must be noted that the government authorties are trying to throw a wet blanket over our strenuous efforts and steps to resolve the nuclear problem on the Korean peninsula, saying the problem cannot be resolved only by signing the nuclear safeguards accord.

All this is intended to conceal their blackhearted intention, an act motivated by their guilty conscience.

As a gimlet in a bag cannot be concealed Japan cannot hide her sinister intention for nuclear arming.

It is nobody's secret that Japan has stepped up material and technical preparations for the manufacture of nuclear arms clandestinely from long ago. They craftily put up the plausible "three non-nuclear principles" in a bid to conceal this.

The extension of reprocessing capacity, massive introduction of nuclear material and the construction of a nuclear warhead testing ground furnish clear evidence of this.

Japan plans to possess 120 tons of plutonium by early 2000.

It is clear to everybody what grave consequences would be entailed if the descendents of the "Imperial Army" which had invaded the Asian continent and inflicted untold misfortunes and disasters upon the people in this region are given nuclear wings.

It is an act of self-destruction for Japan to try to realize nuclear arming and thus attain their aggressive aim.

No Tae-u's Instructions for Fair Elections Viewed

SK1502122492 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1034 GMT 15 Feb 92

["NODONG SINMUN on Hypocrisy of 'Fair Elections' Advertised in South Korea"]

[Text] Pyongyang February 15 (KCNA)—No Tae-u held a "meeting of chief secretaries of Chongwadae [Presidential House]" a few days ago and instructed them to make their utmost to establish "a tradition and custom of fair elections" and cool "overheated election atmosphere." Commenting on this, a NODONG SINMUN analyst today says:

No Tae-u shows up here and there almost every day with the "national assemblymen elections" (general elections) at hand and cries for "clean elections" and "fair elections". This is not for truly fair elections but a propaganda advertisement intended to win the forthcoming "general elections" at any cost and make the "Democratic Liberal Party [DLP]" stay in power.

The "fair elections" ad of the No Tae-u ruling group is nothing but a ruse to suppress the dissident forces and people by branding their election campaign as "illegal".

The "DLP" clan is turning the "general elections" into money- backed, black propaganda-backed and power-backed "elections" dwarfing the previous ones.

The puppets also told a lie when they blared that they would "block the influx of political and election funds" with the mobilisation of the "National Tax Administration Agency" and other competent organs.

No Tae-u's talk about the mobilisation of the agency is a third- rate trick to squeeze more "political fund" from enterprises as he had done by imposing additional taxes upon the Hyundai Business Group some time ago and bar from flowing into the opposition parties.

Judging from this, No Tae-u's advertisement of "fair elections" is a deceptive propaganda reminding us of the ostrich policy as South Korean people say.

Kim Il-song Signs N-S Agreement, Declaration

SK1802082192 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0800 GMT 18 Feb 92

[Text] The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, DPRK president, has ratified the historic documents that the North and South had agreed on.

In connection with the ratification of the Agreement on Reconciliation, Nonaggression, and Cooperation and Exchange Between the North and South and the Joint Declaration on Denuclearizing the Korean Peninsula, which had been adopted at North-South high-level talks and which had been deliberated on at a joint meeting of the DPRK Central People's Committee and the Supreme People's Assembly Standing Committee, DPRK President Comrade Kim Il-song personally signed a ratification document approving these historic documents today.

ROK Delegation Arrives in Pyongyang for Talks

SK1802102792 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0800 GMT 18 Feb 92

[Text] The South side's delegation arrived in Pyongyang at 1240 today by train to participate in the sixth North-South high-level talks.

Yon Hyong-muk, premier of the DPRK Administration Council, who is heading the North side's delegation, met the members of the South side's delegation led by chief delegate Chong Won-sik at the Paekhwa Guest House, where the South side's delegation is to stay.

The spokesman of the South side's delegation issued an arrival statement at the guest house. In his statement, he said that the South side's delegation had come to Pyongyang with the firm belief that the sixth high-level talks would become another brilliant milestone in the new national history of pursuing peace, prosperity, and reunification. The South side has a single desire to sincerely make joint efforts with the North side's delegation toward that end.

Previously, the South side's delegation entered the North side's area through Panmunjom at 0830 today. The South side's delegation was met at Tongil House by Korean People's Army [KPA] General Kim Kwang-chin; An Pyong-su, vice chairman of the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland [CPRF] and spokesman of the North side's delegation; Paek Nam-chun, director of the CPRF Secretariat; Kim Chong-u, vice minister of external economic affairs; Choe U-chin, roving ambassador of the Foreign Ministry; and KPA Major General Kim Yong-chol, who are members of the North side's delegation to the North-South high-level talks, and accompanied them to Pyongyang.

Official Hosts Party

SK1802154792 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1527 GMT 18 Feb 92

[Text] Pyongyang February 18 (KCNA)—Yon Hyong-muk, premier of the DPRK Administration Council, hosted a party for the South side's delegation to the 6th North-South high-level talks at the Mokran House on the evening of February 18.

Invited to the party were the members of the South side's delegation with Chong Won-sik as chief delegate, and the suite and reporters.

Present there were the members of the North side's delegation to the North-South high-level talks and senior officials of commissions and ministries of the Administration Council and public organisations.

Yon Hyong-muk addressed the party.

He said that reunification means the second liberation fully accomplishing the sacred national cause which our fellow countrymen could not achieve on August 15, 1945. Reunification is vital to our fellow countrymen, he said, and added:

The North and the South produced the historical North-South agreement and joint declaration on denuclearisation by bringing together the ardent desire of the fellow countrymen for reunification and peace. The three principles of national reunification laid down in the July 4 joint statement was reconfirmed as the immutable program of national reunification and a definite will to realize reconciliation, nonaggression, cooperation and exchange was manifested in the agreement.

In the agreement the North and the South promised each other to dispel misunderstanding and distrust and achieve national reconciliation and unity and vowed to prevent aggression and clash by armed forces and guarantee detente and peace.

The two sides also resolved in the agreement to promote the common interest and prosperity of the nation by realising multi- faceted cooperation and exchange and promised to make our country a nuclear-free zone in the Joint Declaration on the Denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula.

The historical North-South agreement and the joint declaration on denuclearisation which are taking effect 530 odd-days after the start of the North-South high-level talks are a precious crystalization of the will of unity, peace, cooperation and unbreakable will of reunification of the 70-million fellow countrymen.

We must consolidate peace and open the door of reunification at the earliest possible date by honestly implementing the excellent North-South agreement and joint declaration on denuclearisation which have been produced on the way of realizing national reunification.

Premier Yon Hyong-muk expressed the belief that 1995 will surely be made the year of reunification through the strict observance of the principle of national independence in implementing the historical North-South agreement and creation of preconditions for peaceful reunification.

The chief delegate of the South side spoke next.

Noting that tomorrow we will arrive at the historical moment of effectuating the "Agreement on Reconciliation, Nonaggression and Cooperation and Exchange Between the North and the South" and the "Joint Declaration on the Denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula", he said with this we shall take the first step towards reconciliation and cooperation in 47 years of sufferings resulting from the division.

South Blamed for Blocking Delegation's Visit

SK1702124392 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1019 GMT 17 Feb 92

["Despicable Act To Evade Blame"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang February 17 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today denounces the South Korean authorities for blocking the Seoul visit of a delegation of the Korean Christian Federation to the 41st meeting of the National Council of Christian Churches of South Korea by refusing the accompaniment of a cameraman and the communications service.

The paper in a signed commentary brands this as a very unreasonable and unpardonable act contradictory to the spirit of the inter-Korean agreement.

The paper says:

It is stipulated in Article 3 of the inter-Korean agreement on North-South cooperation and exchange that free travel and contact of the members of the nation shall be ensured, cooperation and exchange be realised in all sectors including the press and news service and exchange of postage, electricity and communications be ensured.

The "Spokesman of the Unification Board" of South Korea, in a foolish attempt to justify their unreasonable act and evade the blame, claimed on Feb. 15 that the shelving of the North's participation in the Christian meeting is "violation of the agreement". This reminds us of a thief crying "stop thief."

At the last working-level contact, our side informed the South side of the accompaniment of a cameraman for recording the meeting and asked it to provide communication links in accordance with the usage of the North-South relations. The South side expressed understanding and agreed to it.

The South Korean authorities' talk about "violation of the agreement" is a far-fetched groundless vilification. Facts prove that the South Korean authorities are not yet freed from the old ideology of confrontation today when the inter-Korean agreement has been adopted, and they dislike and oppose exchange although they are loud-mouthed about "priority to exchange."

Kim Il-song Signs Decree on Wage Increases

SK1502234892 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 2100 GMT 14 Feb 92

[DPRK Central People's Committee decree signed by President Kim Il-song on increasing the wages and income of all the working people, technicians, office workers, and cooperative farmers issued on 13 February in Pyongyang]

[Text] Endlessly promoting the people's welfare is the most important principle of our party and government's activity and is a fundamental demand in socialist construction.

Our party and government built a socialist self-sufficient national economy and strengthened the nation's economic might. Therefore, in accordance with this, our party and government have endlessly implemented various people-oriented policies to systematically enhance the people's living standards.

Because of the correct leadership of our party and government and the people-oriented policy, under our country's most superior socialist system, all of our people are enjoying true political freedom and democratic rights as masters of the state and society and are guaranteed a happy material and cultural life.

The state guarantees our people all necessary material and cultural conditions—food, clothing, housing, and living. The people enjoy a full creative life because everyone has a stable job.

Our people are provided food at prices that are the same as free of charge [as heard] and are granted various state and social benefits, such as free education and free medical assistance. They do not know what taxes are because various tax systems have been totally abolished.

Members of society do not worry about life and are enjoying happy and worthwhile lives. Also, overflowing with firm faith and optimism, all the people are firmly united in one mind around the party and the leader to vigorously struggle to complete to the end the socialist cause.

We are now faced with the important task of raising the people's living standard one more level in accordance with the socialist demand by further consolidating and developing great results achieved in guaranteeing the people's material and cultural life.

Under the wise leadership of our party, the great socialist construction work has been vigorously promoted during the last few years. Therefore, everywhere throughout the nation many monumental creations were built, and material and cultural bases were further strengthened in socialism.

Under the condition that new results were achieved in socialist construction and the country's economic might has been further strengthened, our party and government took monumental measures to sharply increase the wages of all the working people, technicians, and office workers; increase the income of the cooperative farmers; and give more state benefits to the people.

This policy is an embodiment of our party and government's consistent policy to guarantee an independent and creative life for the people and an historical policy manifesting the superiority and invincibility of the socialism of our country centered on the popular masses.

The DPRK Central People's Committee decides as follows to increase the income of the working people and further enhance the overall living standard of the people in conformity with the realistic demand of socialist construction of our country:

1. A state measure shall be enforced to raise the wages of all the working people, technicians, and office workers; the pensions of those living on social security; and the scholarships of students; and to increase the income of the cooperative farmers.

1) The wages of the working people, technicians, and office workers shall be raised by an average 43.4 percent.

2) The pensions of those living on social security shall be raised by an average 50.7 percent.

3) The scholarships of the students at different levels of schools, including universities and colleges, shall be raised by an average 33 percent.

4) To increase the income of the cooperative farmers through distribution, the state purchase price of rice shall be raised by 26.2 percent and that of corn 44.8 percent, and the state purchase price of other agricultural products shall be increased.

The prices of the food supplies to the people shall remain unchanged.

2. This measure shall come into force on 1 March 1992.

3. The Administration Council shall take administrative working measures for a correct implementation of this decree.

[Signed] DPRK President Kim Il-song

[Dated] 13 February 1992, Pyongyang

German Paper Cites Rumors of Planned Army Coup

AU1802112792 Hamburg DER SPIEGEL in German 17 Feb 92 pp 169-174

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Kim Il-song, who rules his Stalinist republic with a bizarre personality cult, is old and sick. His son, Kim Chong-il, who is praised by the government propaganda as "dear leader" and had his 50th birthday celebrated with great pomp last Sunday [16 February], is supposed to succeed his father soon. Kim senior and Kim junior would thus found the first communist dynasty.

Last December the father appointed the son commander-in-chief of the North Korean Armed Forces—an office which the Constitution attributes exclusively to the state president. "Our leader's great ideas and revolutionary deeds will not die with him but will be taken over and continued by his loyal heir," Kim Chong-il, the heir, promised.

On 15 April Father Kim will be 80—It is considered certain that he will hand over his power on this national holiday. The assigned masses will cheer dutifully. However, dangerous grumbling might start among the leading cadres of the communist party: It is said that over the past years there have been several attempts at rebellion against Kim Chong-il, who is despised as an obtuse playboy.

In particular the military, North Korea's most powerful elite, obviously do not get along well with the new commander. There are already rumors that the Army is planning a coup d'etat. The Moscow paper NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA has even speculated that the Chinese leadership is secretly supporting plans for a putsch.

The situation will become critical in any case as soon as Kim Chong-il takes over power. The harshly oppressed people (about 150,000 political prisoners are said to be detained in camps) might seize the opportunity to rise up—following the example of the GDR citizens. South Korean experts think it possible that a sudden wave of 2 or 3 million refugees might cross the Demilitarized Zone.

This is a scenario that is feared by everyone in north and south. A social explosion in North Korea, a presidential adviser in Seoul says, "might throw us into chaos. Then we would have reunification quickly, but it would be a disaster."

Daily Sees Reunification Under Party Leadership

SK1402105192 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1026 GMT 14 Feb 92

["Korean People's Cause of National Reunification Will Be Surely Accomplished Under Party's Leadership"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang February 14 (KCNA)—Invincible is the national reunification cause of the Korean people who are vigorously advancing under the excellent leadership of dear Comrade Kim Chong-il, upholding the line and policies of the country's reunification put forward by the respected leader Comrade Kim Il-song, NODONG SINMUN in a by-lined article today says, and continues:

The dear leader Comrade KimChong-il, true to the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song's noble intention to hand down a reunified country to the posterity, has energetically directed our people's struggle to accomplish the historical cause of national reunification at any cost in our generation in which the great leader is held in high esteem.

Comrade Kim Chong-il said:

"The fundamental position and plans of our party concerning the question of national reunification are widely known. Our party has consistently maintained that the country should be reunified by founding the democratic confederal republic of Koryo on the three principles of independence, peaceful reunification and great national unity, leaving the existing ideas and systems in the North and South intact."

What is most important in our party's leadership for national reunification is that it has built up a powerful driving force of reunification.

It is crucial in strengthening the driving force of reunification to equip the whole nation with the chuche-oriented stand and viewpoint on national reunification, the cause of national independence, and the Korean-nation-first spirit as required by the chuche idea.

Our party has taken as an inexorable principle the principle of national independence which makes it possible to solve the reunification question with the internal forces of the nation in conformity with the demand and interests of our nation by strengthening the driving force of reunification.

To achieve great national unity is also important in strengthening the driving force of national reunification.

Our party has advanced fair policies for promoting national reunification through great national unity and energetically guided the struggle to put them into effect.

Also important in our party's leadership for national reunification is that it has put forward in time reasonable proposals and ways for reunification suited to the prevailing situation and made strenuous efforts for their materialization and, at the same time, actively arranged North-South negotiations to thwart the separatist moves and open a phase of a favourable turn in the situation toward peace and reunification.

Under the tested leadership of Comrade Kim Chong-il, we have been able to turn adversity of confrontation and division into favourable circumstances of unity and reunification and set off strong waves of pro-communist, pro-North reunification at home and abroad, opening the way of independence and reunification, while dealing a heavy blow in time at the separatists' delaying tactics and double-dealing game behind the curtain of negotiations.

Also important in our party's leadership of national reunification is that it has put foward reasonable proposals and indicated ways to create peaceful preconditions for national reunification on the basis of the situation created in our country and a historical summing up of the national reunification movement and is waging a powerful struggle to carry them into practice.

Our party's wise leadership and energetic efforts for peace and reunification of the country brought about such epoch-making events in the history of our nation's movement for reunification as the adoption of "Agreement on Reconciliation, Nonaggression, Cooperation and Exchange Between the North and the South" and "Joint Declaration on the Denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula".

The wise leadership of our party to the Korean people's struggle for national reunification is associated with deep loving care and patriotic, noble intention of Comrade Kim Chong-il.

Noting that reunification in the '90s is the milestone set by our nation, the article stresses: No matter how rugged the road to reunification may be, the Korean people under the experienced leadership of the Workers' Party of Korea, an ever-victorious iron- willed party, will accomplish the historical cause of national reunification without fail, overcoming any hardships and difficulties.

Reportage on Kim Chong-il's Birthday Events

Leaders Attend Birthday Banquet

SK1602095692 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0800 GMT 16 Feb 92

[Text] A splendid, congratulatory banquet marking Comrade Kim Chong-il's 50th birthday has been held.

To celebrate the 50th birthday of Comrade Kim Chong-il, Presidium member of the Political Bureau of the Workers Party of Korea [WPK] Central Committee, secretary of the party's Central Committee, and supreme commander of the Korean People's Army [KPA], a splendid banquet was held in the Kumsusan Assembly Hall today.

Comrade Kim Il-song, the great leader of our party and our people, and Comrade Kim Chong-il attended the banquet.

Comrade O Chin-u, Presidium member of the WPK Central Committee Political Bureau and minister of the People's Armed Forces; Comrades Yon Hyong-muk, Yi Chong-ok, Pak Song-chol, Kim Yong-nam, Choe Kwang, Kye Ung-tae, Chon Pyong-ho, Hong Song-yong, Kang Song-san, and So Yun-sok, Political Bureau members of the WPK Central Committee; Comrades Choe Tae-pok, Choe Yong-nim, Hong Song-nam, Hong Si-hak, Kim Chol-man, Kim Pok-sin, and Kang Hui-won, candidate members of the Political Bureau; Comrades Kim Chung-nin, Pak Nam-ki, So Kwan-hui, Yun Ki-pok, Kim Yong-sun, and Hwang Chang-yop, secretaries of the WPK Central Committee; Comrades Kim Yun-hyok, Kim Chang-chu, Kim Hwan, Kim Tal-hyon, and Chang Chol, vice premiers of the Administration Council; Comrade Yang Hyong-sop, Supreme People's Assembly chairman; Yi Kye-paek, chairman of the Korean Social Democratic Party Central Committee; Chong Sin-hyok, chairman of the Chondoist Chongu Party Central Committee; members and candidate members of the WPK Central Committee in Pyongyang; responsible functionaries from central and local parties, government organizations, administrative and economic organizations, and workers organizations; generals of the KPA; anti-Japanese revolutionary fighters; responsible functionaries from scientific educational, cultural, arts, public health, publication, and the press domains; heroes and labor innovators; members of the Academy of Science, professors, doctors, scientists, writers, people's teachers, people's actors, and people's athletes, who are loved by the people, attended the banquet.

Also present were the congratulatory delegation of the Koreans residing in Japan, headed by Yi Chin-kyu, first vice chairman of the Central Executive Committee of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan [Chongnyon], the congratulatory delegation of the South Korean National Democratic Front [SKNDF]; Yim Min-sik, secretary geneal of the Pan-National Alliance for National Reunification [PNANR]; Chon Chung-in, Canadian regional headquarters chairman of PNANR; Kim Chon-yong, federation chairman of Korean businessmen in the United States; members of the relay teams of overseas compatriots for conveying the letter of loyalty; and overseas compatriots.

Invited to the banquet were the delegation of Sierra Leone All People's Congress led by Edward Mohamed Turay, former general secretary of the Congress; the delegation of the party, state, and armed forces of the Republic of Cuba, led by Rear Admiral Pedro M. Perez Betancourt, member of the Cuban Communist Party Central Committee, vice minister of revolutionary armed forces, and commander of the Navy; Jorge Ibanez, first secretary of the Bolivian Communist Party Central Committee; the government congratulatory delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran, led by vice foreign minister Seyed Mojtaba Mirmadhi; Abur Bashar, chairman of the Central Committee of the Bangladesh Workers Party; Gitte Thomsen, representative of Common Course Workers Party of Denmark and member of the national leadership of that party; members of the Japanese art troupe to congratulate secretary Kim Chong-il's birthday led by Shimez Jun, vice chairman of Japanese-DPRK Association for Cultural Exchange; and other foreign guests.

As the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and Comrade Kim Chong-il appeared at the banquet site together with the heads of the parties of many nations and leaders of the delegations amid the playing of welcoming music, all participants welcomed them warmly with thunderous applause.

The banquet began with the playing of the national anthem.

Comrade Yon Hyong-muk, member of the WPK Central Committee Political Bureau and premier of the Administration Council, made a congratulatory speech.

The participants in the banquet toasted the good health and long life of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and Comrade Kim Chong- il.

Yon Hyong-muk Speech

SK1602152692 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1300 GMT 16 Feb 92

["Congratulatory speech" by Yon Hyong-muk, Political Bureau member of the Workers Party of Korea Central Committee and premier of the Administration Council, at 16 February banquet in Mansudae Assembly Hall to celebrate Kim Chong-il's 50th birthday]

[Text] Amid boundless emotion and joy, today we are significantly celebrating the 50th birthday of Comrade Kim Chong-il, dear leader of our party and people and supreme commander of our revolutionary armed forces.

Celebrating this day with the attendance of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, who pioneered the chuche revolutionary cause and led it along the straight road of victory, and dear Comrade Kim Chong-il, who brilliantly inherited the leader's revolutionary cause and is developing it, is a great honor for us all.

Members of delegations from South Korea and overseas, compatriots, and friends of foreign countries have attended this auspicious event. They are all congratulating Comrade Kim Chong-il on his birthday with warm feelings.

On the occasion of the February holiday, leaders of parties and states of many nations, renowned figures, and various organizations have extended warm and sincere congratulations to Comrade Kim Chong-il. In addition, many nations have organized and held splendid and colorful congratulatory events and functions.

This is an expression of the lofty respect and admiration for Comrade Kim Chong-il from the people of the world. This has greatly moved our people. This makes us more keenly realize the pride and honor in living and struggling by highly upholding Comrade Kim Chong-il.

Comrades and friends, Comrade Kim Chong-il cherished a profound ambition and firm faith early on to brilliantly accomplish generation after generation the chuche revolutionary cause pioneered by the great leader. To this end, he has carried out energetic revolutionary activities. By wisely leading overall works of the party, the state, and the military forces, he has made immortal achievements which will be brilliant forever in history.

Comrade Kim Chong-il monolithically systematized the guiding idea of our revolution created by the great leader and regularized it as the chuche idea, theory, and method. He advanced unique ideas and theories on the revolution and construction after sleepless nights and tireless research and efforts. Thus, he made great contributions to the development of mankind's ideology and culture.

Thanks to Comrade Kim Chong-il's ideological and theoretical activities, the chuche idea is shining brightly as a great guiding ideology of the present time. This idea has become the immortal banner leading our revolution and the cause of independence for the entire world to victory.

With outstanding and refined leadership, Comrade Kim Chong-il brought changes of the century in all fields of the revolution and construction. He excellently built popular mass-centered socialism of our own style on this land. Firmly standing on the position of independence even amid the flow of the complex situation, he is leading the socialist cause along the straight road of victory.

Advancing the work of strengthening the party and of firmly organizing the revolutionary ranks as a basic issue deciding socialism's destiny, Comrade Kim Chong-il dedicated all energy and efforts to consolidating our party organizationally and ideologically and to realizing the blood-based unity and cohesion between the party and the popular masses.

Comrade Kim Chong-il also put forward the revolutionary mass line as the basic principle for party activities and thoroughly implemented this line. Thus, he strengthened and developed our party both in name and reality as an ever-victorious indomitable party, which serves the people and struggles and advances amid their absolute support and love—a party that serves as the skillful and refined staff office of the Korean revolution. By firmly uniting the popular masses with the party and the leader, he turned the entire society into a great revolutionary family with single-hearted unity.

It is a predominant event unprecedented anywhere in the world and a great historic achievement made by Comrade Kim Chong-il to have realized the single-hearted unity among the leader, the party, and the masses. This unity serves as the source of socialism's indomitable might in our country and as an everlasting life.

Comrade Kim Chong-il unfolded a profound idea to build a paradise of the people on the land of the fatherland and vigorously pushed ahead with the revolution and construction with bold operation and peerless courage. Thus, he opened a great golden age in all fields of socialist construction and fully demonstrated to the entire world the revolutionary spirit of chuche Korea and our people's endless creative power.

Everlasting monumental creations illuminating the era of the Workers Party have been splendidly built with each passing day, and the people's happy and worthwhile socialist life has been brought to full bloom. Our nation's proud realities are a brilliant fruition caused by dear comrade leader with uncommon wisdom and outstanding leadership.

Comrade Kim Chong-il made a particular contribution to building the revolutionary armed forces. By firmly preparing the People's Army politically, ideologically, militarily, and technologically, Comrade Kim Chong-il strengthened and developed our revolutionary armed forces into a true revolutionary army, the army of the leader, the army of the party, and the army of the people.

Proceeding from an ardent desire to remove the people's misfortune and pains caused by division and to give joy to the great leader by accomplishing the historic cause of national reunification at an early date, Comrade Kim Chong-il is energetically leading the struggle for national reunification.

Thanks to Comrade Kim Chong-il's wise leadership, the driving force of the reunification movement has been rapidly expanded and strengthened, and obstacles on the road of reunification are gradually being overcome. As a result of this, a bright prospect is being opened for the country's independent and peaceful reunification.

Last year the historic North-South agreement, which is based on the three major principles of national reunification, was adopted, giving hope and confidence to all fellow countrymen for reunification. This is a great victory won by Comrade Kim Chong-il by leading the North-South negotiations with a sagacious strategy and operation that could turn any adverse situation into a favorable one and by smashing the splittists' antireunification maneuvers.

With deep insight into the present complex international situation, Comrade Kim Chong-il elucidated new principles and methods for defending and adhering to the socialist cause and for rebuilding the world's revolutionary movement based on a new foundation. Thus, he gave hope and confidence to the progressive people of the world and vigorously encouraged their struggle for independence, peace, and socialism.

Comrade Kim Chong-il is the genuine leader [chidoja] of the people possessed with a sense of endless loyalty and filial piety to the great leader and with warm love and a dedicated sense of service for the nation and the people.

Comrade Kim Chong-il, who was born in the Paektu secret camp during the arduous time of the anti-Japanese bloody war, followed and learned from the great and noble traits of the fatherly leader and nurtured his outlook and temperament as an outstanding leader of the people amid the practical struggle of the revolution and construction.

Comrade Kim Chong-il, regarding it of utmost happiness to give joy to the leader [suryong] by realizing the great leader's lofty intention and idea, is leading our cadres, party members, and workers with a fine example, which no one can follow, of loyalty, so that they render loyalty and filial piety to the leader [suryong].

Comrade Kim Chong-il, who has boundless warm humanity, embraced all our people in his benevolent bosom of love and gave them a precious political life. Thus, he is leading our people so that they live and struggle in a worthy manner as chuche-type communist revolutionaries. He warmly takes care of them with real fatherly feelings so that they can enjoy a happy and worthwhile socialist life in their hearts.

For his immortal achievements made for the party, the revolution, the nation, and the people, and for his endlessly warm love and benevolence given to the people, Comrade Kim Chong-il enjoys boundless respect and absolute trust from all the people.

Today our people, cherishing a great pride and honor by upholding Comrade Kim Chong-il as the leader [chidoja], are filled with firm determination to render loyalty to the party to the end and to the struggle by dedicating everything to the party and to the revolution.

Our revolution is advancing by upholding the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and under the leadership of Comrade Kim Chong-il, our supreme commander. The future of our revolution is indeed brilliant.

In this significant place, which is overflowing with a sense of admiration, I, carrying the ardent desire of our party and all our people, now propose a toast to the good health and long life of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and Comrade Kim Chong-il, to the reunification and everlasting prosperity of the fatherland, to the victorious advance and brilliant accomplishment of the socialist cause, and to victory in the entire world's cause for independence.

WPK Congratulatory Message

SK1602083392 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0800 GMT 16 Feb 92

["Joint congratulatory message released on birthday of Comrade Kim Chong-il"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang February 16 (KCNA)—A joint congratulatory message of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK], the Central Military Committee of the party, the Central People's Committee and the Administration Council of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea was released on the occasion of the 50th birthday of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il on Feb. 16.

The full text of the message is as follows:

Joint congratulatory message of
the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea,
the Central Military Committee of the party,
the Central People's Committee and
the Administration Council of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea
on the Occasion of the 50th Birthday of Comrade Kim Chong-il

Today our entire party members and people are greeting your 50th birthday with great pride and honor in making revolution under the guidance of you, Comrade Kim Chong-il, who are working with all devotion for the party and the revolution, the country and the people and constantly glorifying socialism of our own style.

On this occasion the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, the Central Military Committee of the party, the Central People's Committee and the Administration Council of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea offer to you, Comrade Kim Chong-il, the dear leader of our party and our people and the supreme commander of our revolutionary armed forces, the highest glory and warmest congratulations carrying boundless respect and loyalty of the entire party members and people and the People's Army men and officers.

You who were born in Mt. Paektu, the holy mountain of revolution, and grew up in the flames of the anti-Japanese war, have performed undying exploits in carrying forward and accomplishing the revolutionary cause of chuche by conducting energetic revolutionary activities for scores of years, experiencing stirring events and serious changes.

It is your greatest achievement for the people's revolutionary cause of independence to have immensely developed and enriched the guiding idea of the revolution leading the people's cause of independence to victory.

You formulated the revolutionary ideology of our party as the integral system of idea, theory and method of chuche, definitely put it in the position of the guiding idea of our times and have comprehensively developed in depth the chuche idea by putting forward many new ideas and theories.

Thanks to your outstanding ideological and theoretical activities, our revolution has been able to dynamically advance along a straight road of chuche without turns and twists in the vortex of history and the chuche idea has been able to demonstrate its great vitality as the inspiring banner indicating the way of struggle to the people who aspire after independence.

You have brought changes of the century in all fields of the revolution and construction by strengthening the driving force of our revolution and steadily enhancing its role.

You have devoted all your energies to strengthening the party and enhancing its leadership role, considerate that the cause of socialism is accomplished under the leadership of a working-class party and the party is the guiding force that serves as the backbone of the driving force of the revolution.

You have developed the chuche-based theory of party building from a new angle and constantly completed the system and method of party work and thus effected a new turn in party building and its activities, thus further strengthening and developing the whole party into a revolutionary party of chuche type which is firmly built up organisationally and ideologically and is acting like one body.

It is your particular feat for the cause of our revolution to have made our party an indestructible party that is united around the leader in one mind and one purpose by carrying forward and developing the tradition of unity and cohesion based on revolutionary comradeship and communistic sense of obligation established at the dawn of the Korean revolution.

You have put it forward as the fundamental principle of the party activities to trust the people, rely on their strength and serve them and thoroughly carried through the revolutionary mass line and thus united the broad segments of people around the party and the leader so as to close our revolutionary ranks as firm as a rock. As you have strengthened and developed our party into a party which serves the people, our people entrust their destinies entirely to the party, highly praising it as a motherly party, and officials mix with, help and lead the popular masses forward under the motto "We serve the people", all of them upholding the leadership of the party with singlehearted loyalty.

You have further increased the might of socialism centered on the masses built on this land and given full scope to its advantages by firmly establishing the principles of chuche in all political, economic, and cultural domains and pressing on with the three revolutions, ideological, technical and cultural.

You expounded the chuche theory of ideology and have led all the people to press ahead with the ideological revolution so that they could lead a heroic life and struggle with the chuche revolutionary outlooks on the leader, the organisation and the masses as their faith. As a result, the whole society forms a great revolutionary family in which the leader, the party and the masses form an organisational and ideological body and share the same destiny and led the people to devotedly struggle for the party and the leader, the country and the people and society and the collective, helping and leading each other forward.

Today, our people are proud of being a great people possessed of noble ideological and mental traits. This is an immortal exploit you have performed by wisely leading the most difficult and complicated work of bringing up communistic type of men.

Proceeding from a noble desire to provide our people with an independent and creative life, you Comrade Kim Chong-il opened a grand vista for the building of socialism and have dynamically organised and mobilized the whole party and the entire people to its realisation with your bold operation and extraordinary revolutionary sweep, with the result that world-startling innovations are being effected constantly in socialist economic construction.

It is under your leadership that many grand monumental edifices of the Workers' Party era have been built, demonstrating the might of chuche Korea, and the potential of the socialist independent national economy has been further increased as a result of the powerful progress of chuche-orientation, modernisation and scientification of the national economy.

With a view to providing our people with a cultured life suited to the requirements of socialism, you set forth the most correct line of building socialist culture and have wisely led the work to translate it into practice.

You set it as the central task of the cultural revolution to assimilate the whole of society to intelligentsia, thus bringing about an epoch-making turn in the development of educational work. And you set forth a chuche-based line on the scientific and technical development and have energetically led the work of lifting our science and technology onto the world level in the shortest possible time. You put forward the chuche-based ideology and theory on literature and art and a unique literary and art policy and have successfully implemented, thereby bringing about a great revolutionary change in all domains of literature and art and ushering in a great heyday of chuche art.

Under your leadership our people today enjoy an equal and sound material life and abundant cultural and emotional life to their heart's content, provided with all kinds of material and cultural living conditions by the state.

You, Comrade Kim Chong-il, with a deep penetration into the internal and external situation of our revolution under which socialism is being built under the condition of acute confrontation with imperialism, have directed big efforts to carry forward and develop the cause of building a chuche-based army from your early years.

You put forward the line of army building on modeling the whole army on the chuche idea and thoroughly established the party's leadership system within the People's Army and thus have strengthened and developed our armed forces into a true revolutionary army, the army of the leader, the army of the party and the army of the people, which fights, fearless of death, for the party and the leader, the country and the people. You have turned our People's Army into invincible combat ranks which can defeat any aggressor by further developing the chuche-oriented military idea and theory, strategy and tactics, and method of war and actively carrying out the modernisation of combat equipment.

Under your leadership, the chuche-oriented command system and the anti-Japanese guerrillas' method of commanding and controlling units have been established within the People's Army and the traditional beautiful traits of unity of officers and men and unity of army and people have been fully displayed to give finishing touches to the looks of our People's Army as the revolutionary armed forces of chuche.

By acclaiming you as supreme commander, our revolutionary armed forces have become able to firmly guarantee the accomplishment of the revolutionary cause of chuche with arms and displaying more powerfully the grand militant ppearance as a-match-for-a-hundred revolutionary armed forces.

Possessed of the traits of a people's leader on a lofty height, Comrade Kim Chong-il, you shape all the policies in conformity with the demand and desire of the people, share bitters and sweets with the people, always finding yourself among them, and get strength from the simple words of ordinary workers, farmers and intellectuals and rouse the creative power of the popular masses, thus working constant miracles in socialist construction. With warm revolutionary comradeship and sense of obligation, you highly value veteran revolutionary soldiers who have devoted themselves, body and soul, to the revolutionary cause of chuche, and look after them with paternal care, show deep trust and care for the young officials, boldly trusting them and rearing them to be the hardcore of the revolution.

Our people who enjoy a worthy life under your comradely loving care, Comrade Kim Chong-il, are devoting their all to the party and the revolution, firmly believing you as their mental support and rallied behind the party as firm as a rock. The traditional trait of struggle of our party and the people, the tradition of struggling in close unity, the party believing the people and strictly relying on them and the latter absolutely trusting and defending the former like an impregnable fortress when the situation is difficult and complicated, is being brought into fuller play under your leadership.

Taking closer to heart the territorial division and the split of the nation than anybody else, you put forward a chuche-based orientation and strategy to carry into effect the reunification program of independence, peaceful reunification and great national unity and have wisely led the reunification cause of our nation, with the firm determination to reunify the country without fail in the generation of the great leader. Thanks to your excellent leadership and energetic activities urged by ardent patriotism and warm compatriotism, the compatriots in the North, South and overseas are firmly united in one body as the driving force of national reunification, irrespective of difference in idea, system, political view and religious belief, and a new phase is opening on the road of terminating the history of the division of the nation that has lasted for nearly half a century and realising the reunification of the country. Guided by you, Comrade Kim Chong-il, who are hewing the path to the future of the country, the 70 million fellow countrymen are today turning out more valiantly to reunify the country in the 1990's without fail, full of confidence and hope that the reunification cause will surely be achieved.

By wisely organizing and guiding the external activities of our party in accordance with the idea of independence, friendship and peace, you have raised the international authority of our party and Republic to an unprecedented height and powerfully encouraged the progressive people of the world in the struggle for building a free and peaceful new world under the uplifted banner of independence.

You enjoy deepest trust and respect from the progressive people the world over, Comrade Kim Chong-il, for the steadfast spirit of anti-imperialism and independence, revolutionary principle and the brilliant example of internationalism you have consistently displayed on the road of the struggle for the global independence.

You have performed shining feats for the Korean revolution and the people's cause of independence as the great heir to the revolutionary cause of chuche infinitely faithful to the leader and his cause, the illustrious leader guiding the revolution and construction to a constant upsurge and the people's leader devoting his all to the happiness of the people with warm love and boundless devotion for the people. Your great exploits will be conveyed long and will shine more brilliantly as the years go by, cherished deep in the hearts of our people and the progressive people.

As you have wisely led our party and state, our people and People's Army along the road of chuche, resolutely adhering to the revolutionary principle, regarding it as your noble mission to carry forward and brilliantly accomplish the revolutionary cause started by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, the Korean revolution is making a triumphant advance without the slightest vacillation following the banner of socialism under the present complicated situation in which the imperialists are intensifying the anti-DPRK, anti-socialist moves. It is the immovable faith and will gained by our party and people on the road of arduous revolution that they can overcome any grim trial and carry out any difficult work as long as they are led by you. The trust of our party and the government of our Republic, our people and People's Army in you is absolute and your leadership is the decisive factor that our revolution can emerge ever victorious through any trial.

Only victory and glory are always in store for our party and people who are marching forward, following the banner of the chuche idea, under your leadership, holding great Comrade Kim Il-song, in high esteem.

Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea
Central Military Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea
Central People's Committee of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

Administration Council of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea
February 16, 1992

CIS Military Commander Sends Greetings

SK1602132892 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1200 GMT 16 Feb 92

["Congratulatory message" from Air Force Colonel-General Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov, general commander of the Commonwealth of Independent States [CIS] Armed Forces, to Kim Chong-il, Supreme Commander of the Korean People's Army, on his 50th Birthday—read by announcer]

[Text] Pyongyang,

To Comrade Kim Chong-il, Korean People's Army [KPA] supreme commander:

Esteemed Comrade Kim Chong-il, on the occasion of your 50th birthday, I extend sincere congratulations to you.

I wish you great success in the responsible work as the KPA supreme commander, good health, long life, and happiness.

Sincerely yours,

Air Force Colonel-General Yevgeniy Shapshnikov

CIS General Commander of Armed Forces

16 February 1992, Moscow

Moscow Holds Commemorative Meeting

SK1502145792 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 2200 GMT 8 Feb 92

[Text] A meeting and performance to congratulate the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il on his 50th birthday were held in Moscow on 7 February under the auspices of the Soviet-DPRK Friendship Association.

In attendance were (Viktor Vlatov) and (Anatoliy Maksimov), vice chairmen of the Central Committee of the Soviet-DPRK Friendship Association; (Viktor Dikov), secretary general of the Soviet-DPRK Friendship Association; functionaries and enthusiastic members of the Soviet-DPRK Friendship Association; officials of the League of Friendly and Cultural Liaisons With Foreign Countries; Yi Tong-chol, chairman of the Korean Reunification Promotion Committee in Moscow; members of the Korean Reunification Promotion Committee; responsible officials and artists of the Russian State People's Art Troupe; and many working people in Moscow.

Son Song-pil, our country's ambassador to the Russian Federation, and officials of our country's embassy were invited.

Addresses were delivered at the meetings. Vice Chairman (Viktor Vlatov) said in his address that today we and the Korean comrades are commemorating the 50th birthday of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, who is an outstanding party and state activist and the Korean people's dear leader. He said that Comrade Kim Chong-il is a member of the Political Bureau Presidium, secretary of the Workers Party of Korea [WPK] Central Committee, and supreme commander of the Korean People's Army. Saying that Comrade Kim Chong-il has contributed to the DPRK's prosperity through his untiring acts, he pointed out that under his wise leadership, magnificent cities, plants, palaces, subways, and other great buildings have been erected. He wished the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il long life and good health.

Next, (Andrey Milov), director of the League of Friendly and Cultural Liaisons With Foreign Countries, delivered an address. He said that today we are commemorating the significant 50th birthday of the Korean people's dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il. He pointed out that whenever he saw buildings in the DPRK, including in Pyongyang, he felt the WPK's leadership. After saying that the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il has acted as the leader of the magnificent DPRK constructions, he added that he warmly congratulated Kim Chong-il on his 50th birthday, which is a national DPRK holiday.

Chairman Yi Tong-chol said in his address that under the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il's wise leadership, all fields of the national economy, including industry and agriculture, have been greatly developed and that magnificent constructions have been built. He said that he wished the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il long life and good health.

Next, Son Song-pil, our country's ambassador, delivered a speech.

After the meeting ended, the Russian State People's Art Troupe artists gave a congratulatory performance. The performance included distinguished actors, including (Ludmilla Tikena), socialist labor hero, winner of Lenin Prize, and Soviet people's actor; and (Viktor Krizen), Russian people's actor. Actors gave a varied performance onstage, including our country's songs and Russian songs. The performance ended with the Korean song, "Our Desire Is Reunification."

Loyalty Meeting Held

SK1602111892 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 2100 GMT 15 Feb 92

[Text] A meeting to deliver letters of loyalty to Comrade Kim Chong-il was brilliantly held.

On the occasion of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il's 50th birthday, all the people throughout the country take the greatest national pride and dignity in upholding him as a great leader [yongdoja] and extend to him the greatest honor and wholehearted greetings with the sentiment of infinite respect and enthusiastic loyalty.

A meeting to deliver all the people's letters of loyalty to the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il was brilliantly held at the 8 February Cultural Hall yesterday [15 February].

The portraits of Comrade Kim Il-song, the great leader of our party and our people, and of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il were hoisted on either side of party flag at the back of the platform. Seen were the slogans reading, "Long live the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song," and "Long live the glorious Workers Party of Korea [WPK]."

Hoisted behind the podium were a picture of Mt. Paektu—symbol of our party's glorious revolutionary tradition—and writings, such as "1942" and "1990," showing the dear leader comrade's historical history of brilliant immortal achievements.

Placed on either side of the podium were congratulatory flags sent by the Central Standing Committee of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan [Chongnyon] and the Central Committee of the South Korean National Democratic Front [SNKDF] to congratulate the dear Comrade Kim Chong-il on his 50th birthday.

Seen in the hall were writings such as, "Let us be a guard unit and a death-defying unit unfailingly loyal to the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and to the glorious party," "We extend the greatest glory to Comrade Kim Chong-il, the supreme commander of the Korean People's Army [KPA]," and "Let us model the whole society on the chuche idea."

The hall was full of the sentiment of absolute trust and infinite respect for the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, who has uncommon wisdom and outstanding leadership, has conducted original ideological and theoretical acts and great revolutionary practices, has led the revolution on the road to victory, and has achieved immortal gains before the times and mankind. The hall was also filled with the sentiment of the firmest will and loyalty of all attendees to complete the chuche revolutionary cause to the end generation after generation in single-hearted unity around the party and the leader.

The meeting was attended by members and alternate members of the WPK Central Committee; deputies of the Supreme People's Assembly [SPA]; responsible officials of the party and government organization, administrative and economy organizations, and social organizations; KPA general officers; fighters of the anti-Japanese revolution; responsible officials of the institutions of science, education, culture and art, public health, and the press and publications; bereaved family members of revolutionary fighters; heroes; people who have performed feats; standardbearers of the three revolutions; members of relay teams to deliver letters of loyalty; working people in the city; and People's Army's soldiers.

The meeting was attended by the Korean residents in Japan's delegation to congratulate Kim Chong-il on his 50th birthday; a relay team to deliver letters of loyalty; members of Chongnyon's various delegations, including an art troupe and a home-visiting delegation; a relay team to deliver a letter of loyalty from the headquarters of the Korean residents in China of the Pan-National Alliance for National Reunification [Pomminnyon]; the (Asok) relay team to deliver a letter of loyalty from the Korean reunification promotion committee; members of Korean residents' relay team in America to deliver a letter of loyalty; and overseas compatriots in various districts.

On the podium were Comrade O Chin-u, member of the Political Bureau Presidium of the WPK Central Committee and minister of the People's Armed Forces; Comrade Yon Hyong-muk, Comrade Yi Chong-ok, Comrade Pak Song-chol, Comrade Kim Yong-nam, Comrade Choe Kwang, Comrade Kye Ung-tae, Comrade Chon Pyong-ho, Comrade Han Song- yong, Comrade Kang Song-san, and Comrade So Yun-sok, members of the WPK Central Committee Political Bureau; Comrade Choe Tae-pok, Comrade Choe Yong-nim, Comrade Hong Song-nam, Comrade Hong Si-hak, Comrade Kim Chol-man, Comrade Kim Pok-sin, Comrade Kang Hui-won, alternate members of the Political Bureau; Comrade Kim Chung-nin, Comrade Pak Nam-ki, Comrade So Kwan-hui, Comrade Yun Ki-pok, Comrade Kim Yong-sun, Comrade Hwang Chang-yop, secretaries of the WPK Central Committee; Comrade Kim Yun-hyok, Comrade Kim Hwan, Comrade Kim Chang-chu, Comrade Kim Tal-hyon, Comrade Chang Chol, vice premiers of the Administration Council; Yang Hyong-sop, SPA chairman; Yi Kye-paek, chairman of the Central Committee of the Korean Social Democratic Party; and Chong Sin-hyok, chairman of the Central Committee of the Chondoist Chongu Party.

Also on the podium were Yi Chin-kyu, first vice chairman of the Chongnyon Central Standing Committee, who is head of the Korean residents in Japan's delegation to congratulate Comrade Kim Chong-il on his 50th birthday; Ho Chong-man, vice chairman of the Chongnyon Central Standing Committee; and Han Sumi, chief of the SNKDF congratulatory delegation.

With the playing of a welcoming song, the relay teams to deliver letters of loyalty entered the hall, waving party flags, flags of the Republic, and red flags decorated with portraits of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il.

Delivered to the podium were the letters of loyalty sent by the people of each province; by general officers of the KPA and the Korean People's Security Forces; by members of the Public Security Ministry; by railway employees; by youths and students; by the Korean residents in Japan; by the Pomminnyon headquarters of the Korean residents in China; by the (Asok) Korean reunification promotion committee; and by the Korean residents in America.

The letters of loyalty to the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il were handed to members and alternate members of the party Central Committee, on authorization of the WPK Central Committee Political Bureau.

Members of letter delivery teams and participants in the meeting were firmly resolved unanimously with all the people to be loyal to the party and the leader for good. They shouted the slogans, "Long live respected and beloved Supreme Commander Comrade Kim Chong-il," "Let us highly uphold the great leader and dear leader comrade," and "Let us loyally uphold the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il's leadership." They chanted, "Kim Il-song," "Kim Chong-il," and "Single-hearted unity."

The meeting to deliver letters of loyalty was held amid the attendees' revolutionary enthusiasm to cherish the great national pride and dignity in upholding the sagacious leader and in carrying out the revolution and to implement the chuche revolutionary cause to the end under the party's leadership.

People's Armed Forces Holds Reception

SK1502072592 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0518 GMT 15 Feb 92

[Text] Pyongyang February 15 (KCNA)—The Ministry of People's Armed Forces hosted a reception on February 14 on the occasion of the 50th birthday of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, the supreme commander of the Korean People's Army.

Military attaches of foreign embassies here were invited.

Addressing the reception, Choe Kwang, Politburo member of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and chief of the General Staff of the Korean People's Army, said our people and officers and men of the people's Army are now greeting the 50th birthday of dear Comrade Kim Chong-il, respected supreme commander, as a most significant and auspicious holiday and extending the highest glory and warm congratulations to him.

Dear Comrade Kim Chong-il is a great popular leader who has performed imperishable feats for our country and revolution, for history and times with his outstanding ideological and theoretical activities and revolutionary practice, Choe Kwang said, adding: Thanks to his tested leadership, our people and People's Army officers and men are confidently struggling to build our socialism centered on the masses and achieve the independent and peaceful reunification of the country, invariably upholding the revolutionary banner of chuche. We will make a great stride forward in the struggle to build socialism and achieve the independent and peaceful reunification of the country under the wise guidance of the dear leader, in hearty response to the militant tasks set forth by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song in his New Year address.

Speaking next, military attache of the Cuban Embassy here Emilio Morales Segui who is doyen of the military attaches corps, said Comrade Kim Chong-il has successfully applied the revolutionary idea of President Kim Il-song to the political, economic and all other domains of the country by his devoted efforts and thus achieved great successes in socialist construction and in the strengthening and development of the Korean People's Army.

He evinced the determination to make every possible effort to strengthen the friendly and cooperative relations between the armies of the countries represented by the military attaches present and the Korean People's Army.

He wished Comrade Kim Chong-il, the supreme commander of the Korean People's Army, good health and long life as well as greater success in his work for socialist construction in Korea, for the strengthening and development of the nation's defence capabilities and for the independent and peaceful reunification of the country.

The reception was followed by a joint art performance.

SKNDF Publishes Birthday Slogans

SK1502063992 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0458 GMT 15 Feb 92

[Text] Pyongyang February 15 (KCNA)—The Central Committee of the South Korean National Democratic Front [SKNDF] (Hanminjon) on February 10 published slogans on the occasion of the 80th birthday of the great leader President Kim Il-song and the 50th birthday of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, according to radio Voice of National Salvation from Seoul.

The slogans call for upholding the sun of chuche with a loyal heart.

Praising the great leader President Kim Il-song as the peerless patriot and the sun of the nation, the slogans call for holding him in high esteem.

Saying that the sagacious leader Secretary Kim Chong-il is the lodestar of national reunification and the sun of guidance, the slogans call for following him for ever to the end.

The immortal chuche idea which was founded by the great leader President Kim Il-song and is being developed and enriched by the sagacious leader secretary Kim Chong-il is a unique guiding idea of the present era and the guiding idea of the revolutionary movement in South Korea, the slogans stress.

The slogans call for opening a decisive phase of independence, democracy and reunification.

The slogans urge the people to launch a powerful pan-national movement for the U.S. troop pullout, shatter the plot of No Tae-u's "Democratic Liberal Party" to stay in power and open a broad avenue for the establishment of a civilian government.

Stressing that to open a new era of reunification through confederacy is the basic task of the movement for national reunification this year, the slogans call for the abolition of the "National Security Law", the release of all the visitors to the North and pro-reunification figures and the frustration of the "unification by absorption" plot sought by No Tae-u.

The slogans say a new phase of independence, democracy and reunification depends on the role of the masses of all strata, the driving force of the national democratic movement.

The slogans call upon the people of all segments to make a continuous advance toward a decisive victory of independence, democracy and reunification, holding aloft the great banner of chuche.

Leaders Receive Chongyon, SKNDF Groups

SK1702053292 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1300 GMT 16 Feb 92

[Excerpts] The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and Comrade Kim Chong-il received the congratulatory groups of the General Association of Korean Residents [Chongnyon] in Japan and South Korean National Democratic Front [SKNDF]. [passage omitted]

Members of the congratulatory groups congratulated Comrade Kim Chong-il on his 50th birthday, gave him a basket of flowers, and wished him a long life and good health. The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and Comrade Kim Chong-il appreciated this and had a warm conversation with members of the congratulatory groups.

Kim Chong-il Named 'Father Leader'

SK1702083992 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0518 GMT 17 Feb 92

[Opening address delivered by Choe Yong-hae, Central Committee chairman of the League of the Socialist Working Youth of Korea, at the meeting of the Korean Children's Union National Federation, held at Pyongyang gymnasium on 17 February—recorded]

[Text] Comrade members of the Children's Union, the future and flowers of the fatherland:

Today, filled with the boundless emotion and joy of upholding the dear leader Mr. Kim Chong-il as the supreme commander of the Korean People's Army [KPA] and the respected and beloved Father of our Children's Union members, we are grandly celebrating the birthday of Mr. Father Leader [aboji chidoja sonsaengnim] as the greatest festive day.

A meeting of the Korean Children's Union National Federation was attended by the meritorious delegates of the national Children's Union and the delegates of the Korean Children's Union in Japan. Invited there were fighters of the anti-Japanese revolution, heroes of the republic, distinguished scientists, artists, sportsmen, delegates of the General Association of the Korean residents in Japan, and students' parents.

More than anything else, taking this significant opportunity, I extend the whole-hearted congratulations and the greatest glory, which are filled with the sentiment of enthusiastic loyalty of the Children's Union across the country, to the respected and beloved Father Mr. Kim Chong-il, who has stood in the van of the Korean revolution; has devoted everything to completing the chuche revolutionary cause; has led our party and our people onto the road of victory and glory; and has trained our Children's Union's members into child revolutionaries under this benevolent care. [applause]

Comrade members of the Children's Union:

The birth of the respected and beloved Father Mr. Leader [chidoja] was the greatest felicitous event of our people, because they can have the sagacious leader who will lead the international revolutionary cause onto a brilliant victory. His birth was also a historical event promising a bright future to our nation and world revolutionary people.

Our people have upheld the respected and beloved Father Mr. Leader [chidoja], who was brilliantly born as the Paektu bright star amid the infinite blessings and expectations of the entire fellow countrymen and who has set up the great will of the revolution. Our people have vigorously gone forward to complete the chuche revolutionary cause, while thinking of the future.

Because there has been the tested leadership of the respected and beloved Father Mr. Leader [chidoja], our party as the most mighty party, our people as the dignified and proud people, and our fatherland as the socialist model country have shed brilliant rays to the entire world, without budging in face of all kinds of winds.

Studying and working, while serving the respected and beloved Father Mr. Kim Chong-il, are not the only pride and joy of our people and the Children's Union's members, but they also have great happiness and glory.

The respected and beloved Father Mr. Kim Chong-il, who has always trained our Children's Union to be child revolutionaries who will shoulder the future of the fatherland, has said that whenever he sees children, he thinks of doing work well for the future. He has established modern palaces and camps in places that command a fine view. He has provided our Children's

Union's members with new school uniforms and school supplies according to season.

Today, under the benevolent care of the Father Mr. Leader [chidoja], our Children's Union's members have studied and lived in a happy existence to their hearts' content. They have nothing to envy in the world. They are growing as the flowers of chuche Korea.

Indeed, because there is the Father Mr. Leader [chidoja], our Children's Union members have today's happiness and a promising future. In addition, the final victory of the chuche revolutionary cause and the endless prosperity and growth of the nation are guaranteed.

Firmly believing the Father Mr. Leader [chidoja], following him to the end, and upholding him with loyalty are the most important duty of our Children's Union's members.

All members of the Children's Union should cherish the greatest glory and happiness of upholding dear Mr. Leader [chidoja] as their Father and supreme commander. They should follow the example of the League of the Socialist Working Youth of Korea brothers and sisters. By so doing, they should grow up to be Father Mr. Leader's genuine sons and daughters who believe and follow the marshal and Mr. Leader [chidoja] to the end; to be the successors of communist construction; and to be youth vanguards of the future.

Now, we will begin the meeting of the Korean Children's Union National Federation to congratulate Mr. Kim Chong-il—sagacious leader of our party and our party, KPA supreme commander, and the respected and beloved Father our school children—on his 50th birthday.

KCNA Reviews 14 Feb Pyongyang Press

SK1402061892 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0505 GMT 14 Feb 92

[Press review]

[Text] Pyongyang February 14 (KCNA)—Papers here today give prominence to news that the Workers' Party of Korea publishing house brought out "Selected Works of Kim Chong-il" Vol. 1, a great encyclopedia of revolution and construction.

Appearing in the press is a report that the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il sent a message of thanks to the employees of the Chonchon County commercial management office in Chagang Province who had set examples in commercial services.

Papers devote much space to the report that the 50th birthday of Comrade Kim Chong-il is being grandly celebrated in different countries.

Papers carry messages of greetings to Comrade Kim Chong-il from foreign party and state leaders and reports that he was awarded a medal and a gift from Seishal City, Portugal, a ceremony was held in Guyana to name a street after Kim Chong-il and a ceremony in Zambia to name a class after Kim Chong-il, celebrations were held in Cuba, the Cuban and Algerian ambassadors to Korea hosted receptions.

A group of Koreans in Japan to congratulate the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il on his 50th birthday and a Japanese "art troupe to congratulate Secretary Kim Chong-il on his 50th birthday" arrived in Pyongyang, says the press.

NODONG SINMUN carries a story that Comrade Kim Chong-il climbed Mt. Paektu and resolved to accomplish the revolutionary cause of chuche through generations.

The paper introduces the first two parts of the multi-part feature film "The Nation and Destiny" which was created as a great masterpiece under the guidance of Comrade Kim Chong-il.

It comes out with an article marking the 20th anniversary of the publication of the historical work of the great leader President Kim Il-song "On the Main Tasks of the Union of Agricultural Working People" (February 16, 1972).

Carried in the paper is a message of greetings sent by the C.C. [Central Committee], the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] to the convention of the Nepali congress.

Congratulatory message of the WPK Central Committee was conveyed to the workers, technicians, office employees, three-revolutions team members, and People's Army soldiers who had rendered meritorious services in the expansion project of the Taehung youth general mining enterprise and its thanks was conveyed to the employees builders and technicians of the injection-molding shop of the Pyongyang vinyl chloride footwear factory and the Pyongyang Ingok mine and soldiers who had taken part in their construction, says the press.

NODONG SINMUN informs the readers of the signing of agreements on trade and economic cooperation between the DPRK and countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States. The president of the Transitional Committee for the Salvation of People and head of state of Mali and the Sri Lankan president met the DPRK ambassadors to their countries and the president of the Muslim League of Pakistan met a delegation of the Workers' Party of Korea, according to the paper.

It carries an article headlined "The Cause of National Reunification of the Korea People Who Are Advancing Under the Leadership of the Party Will Surely Be Accomplished."

Papers inform the readers of the second contact of chief liaison officials of the two sides held to discuss the program of the sixth inter-Korean high-level talks.

It is reported in the press that South Korean students staged a demonstration demanding the dissolution of the "Democratic Liberal Party" and the Federation of South

Koreans in Japan for Democracy and Unification (Hantongnyon) decided upon its action program for this year.

Papers carry a communique on the enlarged meeting of the standing committee of the Central Committee of the South Korean National Democratic Front (Hanminjon) and slogans of the Hanminjon Central Committee.

NODONG SINMUN denounces the U.S. military bosses for prattling that "U.S. Forces reduction program in South Korea will be pigeonholed till the threat of DPRK's development of nuclear weapons is removed".

The daily reports that the Iranian president rejected the Western false propaganda that Iran is trying to purchase nuclear weapons and mass destruction weapons, the U.S. imperialists are putting military satellites on the orbit around the earth, carries news of the bribery scandal in the Japanese economy and deals with the situation in Yugoslavia.

KCNA Reviews 15 Feb Pyongyang Press

SK1502112992 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0548 GMT 15 Feb 92

[Press review]

[Text] Pyongyang February 15 (KCNA)—Papers here today give frontpage prominence to decree of the Central People's Committee of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea promulgated by the great leader President Kim Il-song on the enforcement of a measure to raise the wages of all workers, technicians and office employees and increase the income of the cooperative farmers.

Papers report that the great leader President Kim Il-song sent the 120th installment of educational aid fund and stipends to the children of Koreans in Japan and an employees's meeting was held at the Taean heavy machine complex to carry out the recent instructions of President Kim Il-song.

Given in the press is news that the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il sent a letter of thanks to officials and employees of the Hwangju County housewives' cooperative in North Hwanghae Province.

Carried in the press are messages of greetings sent by foreign party leaders to Comrade Kim Chong-il and news that a congratulatory letter came to him from the president of Egypt and a congratulatory message and a gift also came to him from the Central Committee [C.C.] of the Bolivian Communist Party and that flower baskets, congratulatory letters and a gift were presented to him by the diplomatic corps and the military attache corps in Korea on his 50th birthday, and the Palestinian ambassador to Korea gave a reception and books were published in foreign countries on this occasion.

NODONG SINMUN in an article deals with the ideological and theoretical exploits of Comrade Kim Chong-il.

It is reported in the paper that South Korean people deeply study works of Comrade Kim Chong-il and more than 21,000 pieces of gifts which were sent to him from 137 countries of the five continents by the end of 1990 are preserved in the International Friendship Exhibition.

Papers inform the readers that thanks of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea were conveyed to the units which had made successes by displaying a high sense of responsibilty in their work.

NODONG SINMUN allots nearly one whole page to an article headlined "Our Party Is Tested General Staff of Revolution Leading the Cause of Chuche Along the Road of Victory".

Papers report that senior party and government officials of Korea saw the first two parts of the multi-part feature film of new style "The Nation and Destiny".

According to NODONG SINMUN, first secretary of the C.C., the Bolivian Communist Party and a delegation of the All People's Congress of Sierra Leone headed by its secretary general arrived in Pyongyang.

Printed in papers is a communique on the establishment of diplomatic relations between the DPRK and the Republic of Armenia.

According to the press, a spoksman for the Foreign Ministry of the DPRK declared Japan is not qualified to become a permanent member of the UN Security Council unless she properly liquidates her past wongs.

Papers report that the head of the delegation of the Korean Christians Federation sent a telephone message to the director of the South Korean Council of Christian Churches on shelving the visit of the delegation to Seoul and the third contact was made between the chief liaison officials of two sides to the inter- Korean high-level talks.

NODONG SINMUN in a commentary says that the "fair elections" advertised by No Tae-u is a false propaganda to deceive people.

South Korean news columns of the press include reports that the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets continue to stage war exercises aganst the North in the ground and the sky and on the sea and South Korean people are demanding the abrogation of the "National Security Law".

Carried in NODONG SINMUN is the fourth instalment of an article laying bare the treacherous crimes of No Tae-u's "Sixth Republic regime".

NODONG SINMUN comments on the mean act of the Japanese authorities to invent a pretext for Japan's nuclear armament and carries an article exposing the atrocities of Japanese imperialism in drafting Korean women as comfort girls and violating them.

Carried in the press are articles analysing the serious drug problem in the U.S.

KCNA Reviews 18 Feb NODONG SINMUN

SK1802071492 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0606 GMT 18 Feb 92

[Review of NODONG SINMUN]

[Text] Pyongyang February 18 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today carries a message of greetings sent by President Kim Il-song of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to Dawda K. Jawara, president of the Republic of Gambia, on the occasion of the 27th anniversary of the independence of Gambia.

Printed in the daily are reports that Comrade Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, was presented with gifts respectively by Joseph Saidu Momoh, leader of the All-People's Congress and president of Sierra Leone, and Abul Bashar, chairman of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Bangladesh.

The daily reports that the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, supreme commander of the Korean People's Army, received a congratulatory personal letter and gift from Joseph Saidu Momoh, leader of the All-People's Congress and president of Sierra Leone, and gifts from Chairman Abul Bashar and General Secretary Rashed Khn Menon of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Bangladesh on his 50th birthday.

Featured in the daily are accounts of grand celebrations at home and abroad on the 50th birthday of Comrade Kim Chong-il.

The daily carries messages of greetings Comrade Kim Chong-il received from foreign state leaders, and reports that he received a gift from the congratulatory delegation of the Iranian Government and floral baskets and gifts from diplomatic envoys in Pyongyang and public organizations and figures of different countries and news that the Alepe City of Cote d'Ivoire decided to confer honorary citizenship on him, a commemoration medal of the International Telecommunication Union was awarded to him, colorful functions took place in different countries and various functions were held at the DPRK embassies in Cuba and the Russian Federation.

Also included in it is an account of the grand joint national meeting of organizations of the Korean Children's Union held in Pyongyang in celebration of his 50th birthday.

The daily reports that Comrade Kim Chong-il sent thanks to the workers and officials of the Chonnae coal mine and the three- revolution team members who performed feats of labour in a new pit construction project, a commissioning ceremony of the Chungsong pit of the coal mine was held and thanks of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea were conveyed to many units.

An article of the daily says Comrade Kim Chong-il set forth a new methodology by which to study the history of our country strictly from the viewpoint of chuche.

Given in the daily are news that Kim Won-chin, chairman of the State Agricultural Commission, paid a visit to Guinea as a special envoy of President Kim Il-song, a book "President Kim Il-song" came off the press in Japan and a reception was given in Tokyo in congratulation of the publication of this book.

The daily comes out with an editorial titled "Let Us Carry the Cause of Chuche to Completion, Upholding the Party's Leadership".

It informs the readers that a documentary film "Mt. Paektu, the Stamina of Korea" was released.

Carried in the daily is a commentary urging the South side to implement the North-South agreement and the joint declaration on the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula in connection with the sixth round of the inter-Korean high-level talks opening in Pyongyang today.

In an article the daily explains that the agreement which was adopted between the North and the South of Korea constitutes a new milestone in opening a new phase for peace and peaceful reunification of the country.

South Korean news columns of the daily include a report that Kim Tae-chung criticized No Tae-u's charity "commitments".

World public called upon the countries concerned to support and actively help in the implementation of the North-South agreement and urged the South Korean authorities to show their will to implement it through their practical deed, says the daily.

The daily reports that the Mexican president stressed Mexico will not yield to the U.S. pressure, the Iranian president called for unity of Islamic states, the Pakistani prime minister laid emphasis on the importance of regional cooperation, the Venezuelan president rejected protectionism and the King of Jordan voiced support to the Palestinian people's struggle.

The daily observes the 27th anniversary of the independence of Gambia.

It introduces successes made by the Cuban working people in socialist economic construction.

It carries articles exposing that Japan is stockpiling quantities of plutonium, and Japan is under fire worldwide over the matter of "comfort girls for the Japanese Army".

South Korea

North's Military Elite Rumored To Plan Coup

SK1802030592 Seoul SEOUL SINMUN in Korean 18 Feb 92 p 2

[Report by Yi Ki-paek from Berlin]

[Text] On 17 February the German weekly DER SPIEGEL reported that the elite class within North Korea's military greatly opposes the fact that President Kim Il-song handed over his military prerogative of supreme command to his son Kim Chong-il and that there are rumors that preparations are being made for a coup d'etat to obstruct the succession of power.

After quoting a recent report by Moscow's NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA saying that the Chinese leading class is supporting plans for a coup d'etat within North Korea's military, this weekly pointed out: "If the military stages the coup d'etat, various classes dissatisfied with the succession of power, including 150,000 dissidents detained in concentration camps, will rise against this succession. Therefore, there is a possibility that the 1989 event in the old Germany may be revived."

North Reportedly To Develop Missiles With Libya

SK1702075292 Seoul HANGUK ILBO in Korean 17 Feb 92 p 1

[By correspondent Hwang Pyong-tae from Berlin]

[Text] WELT AM SONNTAG, a German Sunday newspaper, reported on 16 February that North Korea and Libya will build a launch test site to jointly develop a new generation of medium-range missiles with a range of 1,000 km.

Quoting an intelligence agency source in Hamburg, this newspaper reported that, because of geographical restraints, North Korea cannot test medium-range missiles in the country and that, as a result, it is trying to jointly develop them with Libya, which has offered a test site.

This newspaper noted that North Korea has built an improved generation of Soviet-made Scud missile, whose range has been increased, and exported them for several years now, adding that North Korea is planning to develop the new generation of medium-range missiles based on the same Scud missile.

The intelligence agency, the source which WELT AM SONNTAG quoted, is considered not to be the German Federal Intelligence Agency (BND) but a Western intelligence source. This is because German media clearly note if they carry reports based upon BND sources.

President Signs Inter-Korean Nuclear-Free Accord

SK1702030592 Seoul YONHAP in English 0224 GMT 17 Feb 92

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 17 (OANA-YONHAP)—South Korean President No Tae-u completed the final step for putting the inter-Korean basic agreement and nuclear-free declaration into effect by signing them Monday.

No stressed, however, that the agreements were meaningless unless they were fully implemented, and called on North Korea to ratify and fulfill the nuclear safeguards accord as soon as possible.

The two pacts will be exchanged by the South and North Korean prime ministers when they meet for their sixth round of talks in Pyongyang Feb. 19, the last step to putting them into full force.

The basic agreement, signed Dec. 13 at the fifth prime ministers' talks, contains terms for inter-Korean reconciliation, nonaggression and exchanges and cooperation.

The nuclear-free declaration calls for abandoning possession of nuclear arms or reprocessing capabilities for nuclear weaponry and formation of a joint nuclear control committee for mutual inspection on each other's military and civilian facilities.

North Korea signed the nuclear safeguards accord with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in Vienna Jan. 30 but did not specify when it will ratify it or accept IAEA nuclear inspection.

"If implementation of the agreements are not followed through, the pacts will only add to serious distrust," No said.

"North Korea must realize that the nuclear problem is the most serious one and therefore it must ratify the nuclear safeguards accord and appease our concern," he said.

Korea was divided by foreign powers, but Koreans could and must achieve national unification on their own, No said on signing the agreements.

He denied claims that his government was abusing unification issues for domestic political gain and said: "Such times have passed."

No Tae-u's Reconciliation Efforts Viewed

HK1602033292 Hong Kong THE STANDARD in English 15 Feb 92 p d-4

[By Neville de Silva: "No the Architect of Reconciliation"]

[Text] When the two prime ministers of South and North Korea meet in Pyongyang next week, they will exchange two key documents that will bring the two Koreas, riven by 45 years of ideological antagonism and mutual acrimony, closer together and help denuclearise the peninsula.

This month will also mark the anniversary of the inauguration of No Tae-u as the president of South Korea on 25 February, 1988. It was President No's "Northern policy" pursued with a single-mindedness of purpose that paved the way for the rapprochement with North Korea.

The climax of this North-South reconciliation would be a summit meeting between President No Tae-u and North Korean leader Kim Il-song who celebrates his 80th birthday on 15 April.

There is some speculation that the summit might be held before Kim Il-song's birthday.

At the last round of talks between the two prime ministers in Seoul, it was agreed in principle that the two leaders should meet.

But there have been certain developments in Pyongyang which suggest that the summit might be held sooner than later. If it does take place within the next couple of months, it would crown President No's foreign policy thrust and help immeasurably his government, which must face a national election this year.

Kim Il-song, who has ruled North Korea for almost 45 years, designated his son Kim Chong-il, his political heir nearly two decades ago.

Just last month Kim Chong-il was named the commander-in-chief of the armed forces.

This move coupled with the fact that "The Great Leader" subsequently summoned the military chiefs and urged them to be loyal to the new commander-in-chief, has led to widespread speculation that Kim Il-song is preparing to relinquish power.

This thinking is further buttressed by recent reports that schoolchildren in North Korea have started referring to President Kim Il-song as "Grandfather" and his son as "Father".

If so, North Korea would be the only communist country in the world to have such a dynastic rule.

If President Kim wishes to attend the first-ever summit with a leader from South Korea before transferring power then a summit is possible in March or early April, probably in Kaesong, north of the truce village of Panmumjom.

If the summit is held while President No Tae-u is still in power, it would mark the zenith of his presidential career. For no South Korean leader has done so much, in such a short time, to help unify the divided peninsula as President No.

His northern policy was cleverly devised to make optimum use of changes in the international political scene where finis was being written to the cold war and the ideological confrontation between East and West.

His successful foreign policy thrust into the communist heartland, inevitably put pressure on North Korea which was increasingly becoming isolated in a world fast adapting to the breakdown of the old international status quo.

Having learned the hard lessons from German unification, President No is naturally hesitant to rush unification.

He might not see the culmination of the process he started during his presidency. But he is the architect of what must be an irrevocable process.

High-Level Delegation Arrives in Pyongyang

Marks 'Reconciliation, Cooperation'

SK1802063392 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 0500 GMT 18 Feb 92

[Text] Our side's delegation to the sixth round of North-South high-level talks arrived in Pyongyang this afternoon and began its three-night, four-day official schedule. Reporter Kim Hong reports from the North-South Dialogue Secretariat.

[Announcer] Reporter Kim, where is our delegation now?

[Kim] Our delegation has arrived at the Paekhwawon Guest House, the South delegation's quarters in Pyongyang. Our delegation arrived in Pyongyang at 1240 this afternoon as scheduled and unpacked their suitcases.

The delegation, led by Prime Minister Chong Won-sik, was greeted by North Korean figures, including Yon Hyong-muk, premier of the State Administration Council, in front of the guest house.

Upon arrival, our delegation issued a statement, which said that North-South relations in the 47 years since national division have now entered a new era with the sixth round of the North-South high-level talks as a turning point. The statement said that the age of mutual negation and confrontation is about to come to an end and the age of reconciliation and cooperation is about to begin.

In this statement, spokesman Yi Tong-pok stressed that the ROK in the South and the DPRK in the North will open an era of coexistence and coprosperity in the mutual interest and for mutual prosperity through diversified exchanges and cooperation and hoped that a decisive turning point will come about for the fundamental solution of the nuclear problem.

[Announcer] What is the schedule for our delegation?

[Kim] Our delegation will visit the People's Palace of Culture, the site of the talks, at 1600 to see the preparations for the talks and attend a dinner party hosted by

Yon Hyong-muk, premier of the State Administration Council, the senior delegate of the North side, at 1900.

The North and the South will begin the first-day meeting at 1000 tomorrow morning and sign and validate the North-South agreement, the joint denuclearization declaration, and the agreement on the formation and operation of the three subcommittees—political, military, and exchange and cooperation.

Tomorrow afternoon and evening, the delegation will visit the Great People's Study Hall and see a show.

At the meeting on 20 February, the keynote speeches of the two sides will be made in the open session, and in the closed-door session that follows, the two sides will discuss specific plans on the nuclear issue and North-South exchanges and cooperation. In the afternoon, after the talks, our delegation will visit President Kim Il-song's palace where a tete-a-tete meeting is scheduled between Prime Minister Chong Won-sik and North Korean President Kim Il-song. In the evening, a dinner party will be hosted by Yang Hyong-sop, chairman of the Supreme People's Assembly.

Our delegation is scheduled to return to Seoul on the afternoon of Friday 21 February.

Spokesman Remarks on 'Milestone'

SK1802092992 Seoul YONHAP in English 0850 GMT 18 Feb 92

[Text] Pyongyang, Feb. 18 (YONHAP)—The South Korean delegation to the sixth South-North prime ministers meeting, which arrived here just after noon on Tuesday, said that they would work together with the North Koreans to promote peace, prosperity and unification.

"We have arrived here in Pyongyang with a single-minded determination to work with the northern delegation so that the sixth meeting will become yet another milestone in the new historic movement toward peace, prosperity and unification," South Korean spokesman Yi Tong-pok said.

The South Koreans expect the sixth meeting to provide an epochal opportunity to fundamentally resolve the nuclear issues, which were a potential threat to peace on the Korean peninsula.

Yi said: "We hope the North will promptly accept international inspection of its nuclear facilities, an obligation for any signatory of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty.

"We are here to formally put the two historic accords initialed late last year... into force. Also, we will effectuate the agreement on the formation of committees provided for under the basic agreement.

"We will thus put an end to the repudiation of each other and the confrontation that marked the cold war era and usher in a new era of reconciliation and cooperation between the South and the North.

"We expect that the North will agree to the immediate establishment of the joint nuclear control commission and will pave the way for mutual pilot inspection of nuclear facilities in both sides and thus dispel domestic and international misgivings about nuclear arms development in the North. "The North's honest response to our expectations will only be demonstrated by the successful implementation of the historic agreements that will go into force tomorrow."

In a statement on the delegation's crossing of the truce line into the North at Panmunjom earlier in the day, Yi said that effectuation of inter-Korean agreements at the Pyongyang meeting would terminate confrontation and hostility, and usher in an era of reconciliation and cooperation.

He also expressed the view that the prime ministers talks would provide a decisive opportunity to test the true intent of the North with respect to the development of nuclear arms.

"We hope and expect that at the sixth meeting, the North will take firm and practical measures to realize the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula," he said, adding that the South expects the North to demonstrate a determination to sincerely observe and implement the agreements to be put into force at the meeting.

Reactions to Cancelled DPRK Christians' Visit

NUB Regrets 'Political Scheme'

SK1502014292 Seoul YONHAP in English 0100 GMT 15 Feb 92

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 15 (YONHAP)—The National Unification Board [NUB] charged North Korea Saturday with trying to drive a wedge between a private religious organization and the government by cancelling a scheduled visit by a group of North Korean Christians.

North Korea called off the visit by a delegation of the Korean Christian Federation (KCF) after South Korea refused to install direct communication lines or allow two reporters to accompany the KCF delegation.

At the invitation of the Korean National Council of Churches (KNCC), the KCF delegation was to visit Seoul to attend a general meeting of the KNCC from Feb. 17.

The National Unification Board said it had rejected the North Korean request because the two sides had already agreed on a 10-man delegation consisting only of KCF representatives.

Declaring that it could not understand North Korea's last minute cancellation, the board said it could only be a political scheme aimed at shifting responsibility for failure of the meeting between Christians of the divided country on to the South Korean Government.

The board said it could not help expressing regret over "an impure motive" behind the cancellation and urged Pyongyang to show a more cooperative attitude toward private-level exchanges between the South and North in the spirit of the intra-Korean agreement on reconciliation, nonaggression, and exchanges and cooperation.

The KNCC, meanwhile, issued a statement Friday saying that it would still send its representatives to the border village of Panmunjom on Saturday to welcome the North Korean delegation as scheduled.

The KNCC hoped that the two sides would continue to maintain contact through government channels even if a visit could not be materialized this time, the statement said.

Demonstrates 'Precarious' Ties

SK1502043692 Seoul YONHAP in English 0246 GMT 15 Feb 92

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 15 (YONHAP)—Pyongyang's cancellation on Friday of a visit to Seoul by a group of North Korean Christians once again demonstrates the tenuous and highly precarious nature of relations between the two Koreas.

Nearly all South Korean Christians, led by the Korean National Council of Churches (KNCC), were in a state of excitement and expectation as they prepared to receive their brothers in faith, who were to make the first visit by North Korean Christians to the South since the end of World War II 47 years ago.

The 10-member delegation of the North's Korean Christian Federation (KCF) was scheduled to cross the border at the truce village of Panmunjom on Saturday to attend KNCC's annual general meeting in Seoul on Monday.

But the North Korean authorities blocked the visit at the last moment after the South Korean Government rejected their requests to send two reporters with the delegation and to set up communications lines for the visit.

The reasons for the cancellation puzzle many North-Korea watchers in the South since the two sides agreed on Feb. 10 that no reporters would accompany the delegation and communication with Pyongyang would be done through a third country.

The last minute cancellation, therefore, could have resulted from unexplained internal developments or from a plan to wreck the visit in order to blame the South Korean Government for a political purpose.

Some analysts believe that the South Korean Government could have given in once again and accommodated North Korea by letting KNCC accept the North Korean requests and help realize the visit.

At any rate, the latest North Korean move mystifies analysts as well as government officials as Pyongyang continues to be extremely reluctant to promote personal exchanges despite the mood of rapprochement following the signing of the Dec. 13 inter-Korean agreement on reconciliation and exchanges.

One likely reason for the cancellation, some analysts speculate, could be that North Korean leaders did not want to attenuate the nation's festive mood for the birthday celebrations on Feb. 16 of "dear leader" Kim Chong-il, son of President Kim Il-song.

Others, including many government officials here, believe that Pyongyang was trying to drive a wedge between religious groups in the South and the government.

"North Korea would dearly love to see discord develop between the large and influential Christian organization, and the government and its party in time for the (March) parliamentary elections," one analyst said.

Such a North Korean attitude could throw "a negative element" into the 6th round of inter-Korean prime ministers' talks in Pyongyang beginning Feb. 18, the analyst said.

Nevertheless, many observers believe North Korea will not renege on the Dec. 13 agreement and the Dec. 31 declaration on a nuclear-free Korea. But there is a strong possibility for Pyongyang to make excuses for not carrying out details of the agreements on the ground that the South failed to accommodate the North Korean visit by erecting obstacles.

Candidate Drops From National Assembly Race

Claims Government Harassment

SK1502005692 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 15 Feb 92 p 2

[By staff reporter Kim Chang-yong: "Government Shadow Arm Still Flexing Muscles Against Opponents"]

[Text] Politicking by intelligence agencies, which had been common during the authoritarian Pak Chong-hui and Chon Tu-hwan eras, is still going on in the face of the crucial National Assembly elections whose results could have a far-reaching impact on the presidential vote, opposition parties say.

The newly-formed Unification National Party [UNP] yesterday charged the No Tae-u administration and its party with forcing a UNP parliamentary candidate, Yi Chu-il, to drop his bid for an Assembly seat and leave the country.

Yi, 52, a comedy superstar whose real name is Chong Chu-il, suddenly departed for Hong Kong to "relax" Thursday along with his family. He will ten head for the United States and return home around May, well after the polls, his assistants said.

Yi, one of 58 organizers of the UNP, was embarking on a political career with a new opposition party ticket in the eastern Seoul suburb of Kuri where he spent his devastatingly poor days before gaining nationwide popularity and making money.

He topped a recent popularity poll by a large margin, according to UNP officials. His rivals were Rep. Chon Yong-won, the owner of traditional rice wine, makkoli, company of the ruling camp and Cho Chong-mu, local chapter head of the main opposition Democratic Party.

Yi confessed to UNP executives that he had experienced harassment by unidentified people at entertainment spots which he operates. Some men checked the identification of customers under the pretext of searching for subversives inside and police intensified alcoholic tests of the drivers around his nightclubs and bars.

The UNP immediately set up a fact-finding committee with regard to Yi's charges.

The party, led by billionaire businessman-turned political novice Chong Chu-yong, has maintained that its members have been suffering from oppression, direct and indirect, as it makes inroads into strongholds of the ruling Democratic Liberal Party [DLP]. Another organizer, Kang Pu-cha, a popular television actress, was relieved of a key part in her 13-year-old radio talk show.

Yi's action came 10 days after Kwon Chong-tal gave up his political ambitions and left for the United States. Kwon, secretary general of former president Chon Tu-hwan's now-defunct party, was moving to gather those not nominated by the DLP to challenge government party candidates.

Kwon, 57, failed to get a nomination for Andong, Kyongsang-pukto, where he was elected twice.

Another target of the alleged harrassement is Chong Hong-yong.

Living in exile in the United States since April 1990 for his alleged involvement in the military crackdown on the massive pro-democracy uprising in Kwangju in 1980, Chong, formerly defense minister, had tried to come to Seoul several times. He arrived at last to attend the funeral of his mother-in-law on Jan. 29.

Every one of his movements has been watched by a dozen men using three taxis until the mass media took issue of the case, carrying pictures of the taxis.

He had a similar experience when he competed with No's handpicked nominee in a by-election in his electoral district. Coercion and persuasion continued till he yielded to the pressure and left for San Francisco in 1990.

Chong, who is from Taegu and No's longtime friend, has enough reasons for his usual favoritism for the Taegu-Kyongsang-pukto (T-K) clan, but he has been left out in the cold.

Chong, 60, called a press conference Thursday to announce that he will run in Taegu's So-A district, where he won a seat for the 13th Assembly in 1988.

Pitting himself against ruling party candidate Rep. Mun Hui-kap, No's former senior economic secretary, again said he would brave any "pressure from outside."

Analysts view that the unconventional politicking will only damage the ruling camp, not the opposition array or No's opponents, by displeasing the electorate and turning them sympathetic with the "victims."

"Except Yi and Kwon, who have been virtually deprived of their constitutional rights to political activities, Chong may not be called a victim. The naked unlawful maneuvering will only make Chong a national figure as a fighter against the abuse of power, decolorizing his military brand," one analyst said.

Yi Chu-il Says Not 'Coerced'

SK1702042192 Seoul YONHAP in English 0219 GMT 17 Feb 92

[Text] Hong Kong, Feb. 17 (YONHAP)—Yi Chu-il, the South Korean comedian who fled to this British colony after reportedly giving up the race for a National Assembly seat, said Sunday he had no intention of ever getting involved in politics again and would stick to being an entertainer.

"I was neither politically persecuted nor coerced into dropping my bid to sit in parliament," Yi told Korean reporters, hinting that he had rejected a plea by the Unification National Party [UNP] to return to the political fold.

Yi is one of 58 promoters of the party, formed by Hyundai owner Chong Chu-yong, and was to have represented the party in the general elections in the constituency of Kuri bordering Seoul on the northeast.

Asked if he and Pong Tu-hwan, the UNP emissary who arrived Saturday to investigate Yi's sudden departure from Korea and persuade him to run, had discussed the alleged political persecution, Yi said no. He said he was to "just remain an entertainer beloved by the people."

Yi said he had been harassed by unidentified visitors to his clubs and such a case before the elections might be translated as an "act of political persecution."

He told reporters he would return to Seoul on Monday in an attempt to calm down the controversy surrounding his flight.

Pong said Yi would fly to the United States and not return home on Monday, but confirmed Yi's intention to remain an entertainer and forgo a political career.

Party To Investigate 'Oppression'

SK1802042792

[Editorial report] Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English on 18 Feb published on page 3 what appears to be a quarter-page advertisement by the Unification National Party under the heading "We Demand the No Regime Stop Political Oppression." Following is the text.

"The No Tae-u regime has intensified unreservedly its oppression of the Unification National Party [UNP].

"Mr. Yi Chu-il, one of the party's founding members and a popular comedian who was to run in the forthcoming National Assembly elections from the Kuri City District, Kyonggi Province, abruptly left the country with his family, giving up his electoral plan. This is only a plain example of political oppression.

"As has been reported widely, Mr. Yi, since joining the party, has been heckled by youths of mysterious identity who threw eggs and jeers at him during his public performances. He has also been subjected to various threats almost daily.

"In the case of another popular figure in the entertainment industry who also joined the UNP as a founding member, she has been forced out of a radio program which she had hosted for the last 13 years.

"On the other hand, however, a certain Mr. Yi, a TV talent who has been nominated by the government party to run in the elections, is benefited with indirect electioneering effects by appearing in a TV drama. How can these double standards be tolerated? But it does not just stop there. One district chapter chief of the Unification National Party had his car burnt down and a number of other prominent persons intending to join the party are being openly harassed across the nation with vicious and illegal means.

"We ask President No. As the head of the government and also the president of the ruling party, is he aware of these undemocratic and criminal acts of political oppression? If he does know, then are the "democracy" and "fair elections" which he has been espousing on so many occasions mere empty slogans designed to deceive the people?

"If he does not know, then it proves he is incompetent to govern. If President No has no intention of damaging the atmosphere of fair elections by creating an atmosphere of terror and fear through high-pressure tactics that were rampant during the period of military dictatorship, then he must order all government agencies and organizations under its control to immediately desist from all political oppression of the Unification National Party.

"We also urge President No to reveal the truth of the matter to the public. If he fails to take such actions, then we must assume that those unlawful and unjustified acts are being committed with the explicit or tacit approval of President No.

"If these just demands of ours are not met, we will stand up resolutely to safeguard freedom and democracy and join forces with the people to spearhead the fight to bring down the anti-democratic regime.

"The Unification National Party has formed and put into operation a committee to investigate the facts of political oppression."

UNP Leader Stages Sit-in

SK1802052092 Seoul YONHAP in English 0203 GMT 18 Feb 92

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 18 (YONHAP)—Chong Chu-yong, leader of the Unification National Party [UNP], and other party leaders staged a sit-in in the lobby of the Seoul Broadcasting System (SBS) here Monday night, demanding a meeting with comedian Yi Chu-il.

Yi, who the UNP charges was driven out of the country by the government because he planned to run under the UNP banner in the general elections, appeared on SBS as soon as he returned from Hong Kong Monday night.

Chong claimed the government had arranged Yi's appearance on SBS to scotch the rumors it had forced him to drop out of the election race. The founder and owner of the Hyundai Group said the government whisked Yi away right after he appeared for around 10 minutes on a talkshow.

Others joining the sit-in were Rep. Kim Kwang-il, former lawmaker Pak Han-sang, Chong's son and lawmaker Chong Mong-chun and Yi In-won, spokesman of the UNP.

On the talkshow, Yi acknowledged that he had been asked by Chong to run in the constituency of Kuri bordering Seoul to the northeast, but said he had told Chong to reconsider the offer.

"I just went to Hong Kong to relax for a short time," Yi said. "The allegation that my stay there had a lot to do with political reasons is absolutely wrong."

After the show, Yi drove straight to the house of a friend in western Seoul where he taped a morning program. He went into hiding shortly after midnight, telling no one of his whereabouts.

Upon his return, Yi told reporters that he decided to return to defuse the controversy surrounding his departure abroad and repeated previous denials of outside pressure.

Yi told reporters that he would not engage in politics and rather remain an entertainer "beloved by the people."

Excluded Parliament Members Run as Independents

Vow 'New Political Climate'

SK1502033192 Seoul HANGUK ILBO in Korean 14 Feb 92 p 1

[Excerpts] National Assemblymen who were excluded from nomination for the 14th parliamentary elections by the ruling and opposition parties left their respective parties, and some of them have already joined the new parties. There is an indication that they will run as independent candidates and thus may form a new political force. Both ruling and opposition parties are attempting to work out proper measures to cope with their moves.

When the independent candidates' plans and intentions become more concrete and lucid, the existing parties' goals for winning votes will face considerable setbacks, thus seriously affecting the election strategies of the ruling and opposition parties.

Moreover, most of the independent candidates condemn the party leadership's political activities and have vowed to create a new political climate. With this situation, some people observed that these independent candidates are increasingly damaging the image of the existing political sphere. [passage omitted]

A relevant official of the ruling Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] said that in view of organizational nature of the ruling circles and of the characters of the independent candidates, it is hard for these independent candidates to emerge as an organized political force. He added that the aftereffect of the nomination of the party's parliamentary candidates is more serious than ever before and unlike in the past, however, it is difficult for the central party to have unilateral control over local organizations. Therefore, the DLP has no choice but to find ways to provide support to the electoral districts where pro-DLP independent candidates are expected to run for the upcoming general elections. [passage omitted]

Threaten Established Parties

SK1502004992 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 15 Feb 92 p 2

[Text] As independent contenders and the just-born Unification National Party [UNP] remarkably gain momentum in the face of the parliamentary elections, the nation's two established parties are looking over their shoulders.

The ruling Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] and the opposition Democratic Party [DP] may be forced to overhaul their campaign strategies as those who were not renominated or denied tickets are leaving the parties in droves either to run as independents or to join the UNP.

Reports have it that the DLP and the DP had tried to dissuade these defectors from running in the March general elections but to no avail.

In particular, the ruling party has tried to bring those who had not been renominated back into the fold by dangling the prospect of a proportional representative seat or ranking post at a state-run company in front of them.

As former Rep. Chong Ho-yong, who reportedly harbors hard feelings against the No Tae-u government, has made clear that he will run as an independent in Taegu, the power base of No, the DLP appears desperate to stem the effects of his announcement.

Other former ruling party lawmakers who will hoist banners against the DLP are Kwon Ik-hyon, Ho Hwa-pyong, Ho Mun-to, Yi Hak-pong, O Han-ku, Chong Chang-hwa, Hwang Song-kyun, Yi Chae-yon, Yi Tok-ho, Choe Chong-sik, Kim Kil-hong and Chang Song-man.

However, former Army Chief of Staff Pak Hui-to, who did not get a ruling party ticket, said yesterday that he will not run as an independent.

Those who had severed ties with the ruling party to join the UNP include Pong Tu-wan, Hong Song-u, Pak Kyong-sok, Yom Kil-chung, Chong Son-ho, Pak Chin-ku, Cha Su-myong, Pak Chae-sang, Cho Sun-hwan, Yun Hang-yol and Yim Tok-kyu.

Also considering hooking-up with the UNP are ex-Reps. Kim Tae-yong, Yi Chae-ok, Kim Chan-u, and Pak Hui-pu.

In the meantime, the DP faces an uphill struggle to obtain its goal of winning about 100 seats as its dropouts set up an alliance against Kim Tae-chung.

Former vice House speaker No Sung-hwan dealt a serious blow to the opposition party by bolting from it in protest against its denying a ticket to Cho Yun-hyong, incumbent vice House speaker.

On top of this, the 45 followers of Rep. Pak Chong-tae who was turned down nomination yesterday left the DP.

Reps. Yi Chae-kun and Yi Ton-man are likely to bolt from the opposition party also.

To the contrary, the UNP which is led by Chong Chu-yong is optimistic on its chances of winning 20 seats.

Currently, it has six lawmakers who have defected from established parties.

The UNP is seeking to win five to six seats in Kangwon-do, four to five in Kyongsang-namdo, three to four in Seoul and two to three under the proportional representative system.

Independent Candidate Arrested

SK1602135092 Seoul YONHAP in English 0623 GMT 15 Feb 92

[Text] Pusan, South Korea, Feb. 15 (YONHAP)—Police Saturday arrested No Cha-tae, an independent candidate for the National Assembly, on charges of electioneering before the official 18-day campaign period opens.

No, 63, a national assemblyman in the 1980's, locked himself in his house for 12 hours after the arrest warrant was served while police waited outside.

When he eventually emerged and was taken into custody, No became the first candidate in this year's general elections to be arrested.

He is charged with giving notebooks and packets of instant noodles bearing his name to voters of the Yongdo-gu constituency in southern Pusan on several occasions since December, a police spokesman said.

Former Attorney To Run as Independent

SK1502012892 Seoul YONHAP in English 1220 GMT 14 Feb 92

[Text] Taegu, Feb. 14 (YONHAP)—Former lawmaker Chong Ho-yong announced Friday that he would run in the National Assembly elections as an independent.

Chong told a press conference that he would field himself in the Taegu So-a constituency in his bid to "confirm whether freedom and democracy indeed exist in this country."

"I am on good terms with President No Tae-u but we may have different political views," Chong said.

Chong said, "I will strive to redress current political climate in which oppositionists are compelled to canvass stealthily, even if it costs my own political fate."

New Political Parties Push Reform Platforms

SK1602020692 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 16 Feb 92 p 2

["News analysis" by staff reporter Choe Sang-hun: "New Parties Wooing Voters With Economic Reforms"]

[Text] The first two months of this election year have seen a swirl of newborn political parties.

In the past, new political parties came and went, parting ways and realigning themselves so unexpectedly and precariously that it was a major headache even for the mindful political watchers to follow up with all those new party labels.

Three new names have emerged from the hustle-and-bustle realignment, so far. They are the Unification National Party [UNP], the Party for New Political Reform and the Minjung (People's) Party.

They have common stakes in this spring's parliamentary elections. They all vie to secure a niche in establishment politics predominated by the ruling Democratic Liberal Party and the opposition Democratic Party.

Inflation, widening trade deficit, scandals that have discredited both the ruling and opposition parties and the continuing disequilibrium between the rich and the poor—all these will provide them with a common pulpit to push their look-alike reformative platforms among the disenchanted public.

Despite their reformist rhetoric and pledges to promote "clean and honest politics," however, they are largely believed to have failed to enlist enough fresh faces to meet their demands.

The UNP, led by retired business tycoon Chong Chu-yong, is the biggest of the three new parties. Supported by the tycoon's astronomical wealth, the party has rapidly expanded its ranks recently.

Observers say, however, the quality of the UNP's lineup does not match its volume. Unassured of how the people would judge the businessman's entry into politics, influential figures stayed away from Chong's party.

The UNP eagerly embraced those who failed to gain the nomination from the major two parties. Some old politicians, largely forgotten in the public memory, were plucked to star as UNP candidates in the elections.

Personal connections with the 77-year-old tycoon dominated the UNP's choosing of its personnel, critics said.

Chong aims to send at least 20 followers to the next National Assembly to be able to form a floor negotiation group. He seeks to score a major victory in his home province of Kangwon-do and some major industrial sites where his Hyundai Group's affiliated companies are located.

During the election campaign, Chong is expected to seize upon the economic failures of the incumbent government. He hopes his rich experience in the corporate world and the reputation he earned building the nation's best-known "chaebol" will secure him a following in business circles and working-class people.

But the critics said Chong's tough relationship with labor in the past will be a drag on his efforts as a politician to solicit support from the folks in the industrial sites.

They also point to the growing public hostility toward chaebol, which are criticized for the tentacular expansion of their business empires and their collusive links with the power elite.

Chong's drive to whip up emotional support in his relatively backward home province is criticized by some as creating another regionalistic grouping in a country already rampant with regional antagonism between the Kyongsang and Cholla provinces.

Recent reports about Chong paying off reporters are believed to have dealt crippling blows to the retired tycoon's effort to shed the image of his cashdriven party.

The UNP's drive to improve its image may have received a boost when former university professor Kim Tong-kil and his followers in the Saehan Party joined the UNP recently.

But Kim's personally motivated move invited strong protests from the remainder of the Saehan Party members, who vowed to fight the UNP in the legislative elections.

Anyway, the UNP, whose popularity has reportedly been increasing, is severely attacking the government of President No Tae-u in connection with the Yi Chu-il affair.

Yi, a well-known comedian, is said to have been preparing to run in the parliamentary elections on the ticket of the UNP, but suddenly left Seoul Thursday for an overseas tour, amid reports that he had been under pressure from authorities to stay away from Chong's party.

According to reports, however, Yi will return home from Hong Kong tomorrow, cutting short his trip.

DP Members 'Take Swings at Each Other'

SK1502001492 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 15 Feb 92 p 2

[From the "Press Pocket" column: "DP Violence"]

[Text] The main opposition Democratic Party [DP], awash in defections over the nomination of candidates for the coming parliamentary elections, saw some of its members take swings at each other yesterday.

Party spokesman Rep. No Mu-hyon had one of his teeth broken by an ash tray which was kicked by Rep. Yang Song-u.

Encountering No at the lawmakers' building in Yoido, who allegedly opposed Yang's nomination for the Yangchon constituency, Yang yelled at the spokesman, "You filthy scum," and kicked the ash tray.

Yang argued that No, a member of the committee that screened candidates, "had libeled me by claiming that I am not qualified to be nominated."

He said, however, "I had no intention to hurt him. The ash tray hit him by accident."

No said afterwards that the incident "made him mad." He said he did not intend to resort to court action.

Also on Tuesday, Rep. Yi Chae-kon, who failed to get a party ticket, allegedly slapped party secretary general Kim Won-ki on the cheek and threw a glass at him in protest for his being left off the list of party candidates.

Lawyer To Launch New Liberal Democratic Party

SK1602134192 Seoul YONHAP in English 0951 GMT 15 Feb 92

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 15 (YONHAP)—Yi Pyong-ho, president of the Asian-Pacific Bar Association, announced Saturday that he would launch a new political party, tentatively named "the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP)," soon and field 48 candidates in the forthcoming National Assembly elections.

Yi said that his party would endeavor to realize sound moral ethics and justice.

"A lawyer should be elected to the presidency if the nation is to realize constitutionalism," Yi said, indicating that he would run in the presidential election.

An LDP promoters' meeting is to be held in a few days, Yi said, adding that former Chief Justices Min Pok-ki and Yi Yong-sop, retired General Yi Hyong-kun and former Ambassador to Japan Choe Kyong-nok are among the promoters.

Signs Point to Major Change in Ruling Clique

SK1802024992 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 18 Feb 92 p 2

[By Sim Chae-yun]

[Text] Signs are popping up pointing to a possible major change in the power structure of the so-called T-K clique, the political elite from Taegu and adjacent Kyongsangpuk-to province, after the parliamentary elections tentatively slated for late next month.

The possible change holds special meaning in a country where politics have been dominated for decades by persons from certain areas and in that it is closely related to the ruling Democratic Liberal Party's [DLP] presidential nomination.

Former superintendent of the Korea Military Academy Kim Pok-tong drew public attention when he exhibited designs on the leadership of the T-K clique by secretly inviting some 20 area lawmakers early this month to a "dinner party" immediately after the party's nomination meeting at Chongwadae (Presidential office).

Kim, one of the core-members of the T-K group and brother-in-law of President No Tae-u, is now reported to be mobilizing every means to get a pledge for his becoming one of the leaders of the T-K group after the Assembly elections.

Kim, who was in the same class as the President No's and his predecessor Chon Tu-hwan's in the military school, was nominated as the DLP's candidate for the Taegu Tong-A constituency after he had been banned from taking part in the politics due to public criticism over charges of nepotism.

A party source said Kim's invitation to the lawmakers is in preparation for a reorganization of the majority Minjong faction within the DLP after the elections.

Upon hearing of Kim's move, followers of the party executive chairman Kim Yong-sam, who is now putting all on becoming the ruling party's presidential candidate, revealed displeasure by saying he (Kim) is attempting to unite the T-K members.

On the other hand, Kim Yong-sam wooed support from Kim by praising him as one person with firm conviction in democracy when he participated in the founding meeting of Kim's local chapter office. He even suggested that Kim is the person who will do a "great" job in the future.

Despite the executive chairman's conciliatory gesture, Kim showed somewhat lukewarm response in thanking Kim Yong-sam for his kind words and participation.

Another sign of possible T-K reorganization appeared when former lawmaker Chong Ho-yong publicly declared he would run in the parliamentary elections as an independent.

Chong returned home early this month from his 20 month 'exile' in the United States imposed by the core-leadership of the ruling camp led by No.

Chong has been on sour terms with No since he was forced to leave for the United States after giving up his candidacy in the 1990 by-election in the Taegu So-A district.

Chong's announcement was interpreted as a head-on challenge to the mainstream of T-K forces led by the president.

Chong was earlier forced to give up his Assembly seat as a "scapegoat" of the 6th republic in early 1990 amid public denouncement on the brutal oppression of the Kwangju popular uprising in 1980.

DLP secretary general Kim Yun-hwan and director of the Agency for National Security Planning So Tong-kwon, both key members of the T-K clique, met with Chong and tried to dissuade him from running for the elections, pledging to give an uncontested national proportional Assembly seat in case he abandons the elections. Chong, however, refused.

A DLP insider commenting on Chong's independent bid said that conflicts within the T-K clique will break out in the open soon.

Chong's election bid has special meaning in that it will cause a ripple effect in the Taegu-Kyongpuk province which is the stronghold of the ruling camp.

Chong has wide support in the area and some of those who failed to be renominated by the ruling party also intend to run in the elections as independents in alliance with Chong, causing concern in the ruling camp.

Sympathetic support is now reported to be spreading among the people in the area, which could threaten the support base of former sport-youth minister Pak Chol-on who will run in adjacent district in Taegu.

Pak, a key figure of the T-K force, also harbors presidential ambitions.

Government Urged To Enforce Social Discipline

SK1602022692 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 16 Feb 92 p 2

[From the "News in Review" column by Assistant Political Editor Pak Mu-chong: "Lax Discipline on Officialdom Reflects Lameduck Syndrome"]

[Text] Social discipline is slackening as an apparent side-effect of the lame duck phenomenon.

In particular, the breach of discipline in officialdom appears to be growing.

A host of incidents have taken place one after another of late showing how relaxed order has become in society.

The unprecedented theft of university entrance test papers last month alarmed the people, and police are still grouping in the dark to find the "mysterious burglar."

Last week, the alleged false appraisals by the National Institute of Scientific Investigation jolted the nation, seriously damaging government authority.

Although the true picture of the allegation has yet to be unveiled, the scandal was itself a grave shock to the people in that the government apparatus has been regarded as the "last fortress of the public confidence in the state."

In addition, a series of irregularities and crimes perpetrated by government officials, police and soldiers are making the people wonder whom they should trust.

There are too many of them to enumerate, but major ones include a noncommissioned officer's trafficking in firearms, issuance of false diagnoses by conscription officials and a drunken cop's exploding a grenade on a street.

Social discipline is slackening further with the parliamentary elections ahead and with President No Tae-u's single five-year term entering its final year. No, who took office in February 1988, will step down next February.

As No's trademark campaign slogan was "believe me," the people might be feeling betrayed much due to the "unbelievable" deluge of incidents.

Politics are helpless because politicians' concerns are focused solely on winning the general elections, whose outcome is sure to greatly affect the ruling party's presidential candidate selection.

Aware of the serious situation, No, on his own part, handed down a strong instruction that the administration would take every measure available to enforce discipline in officialdom.

No pledged that he would not tolerate any public post holders who are involved in irregularities, irrespective of their positions.

But, there is one question: will the words of the president whose power is gradually weakening be kept?

Amid public concerns that the parliamentary and presidential elections this year may jeopardize the ailing economy, No has repeated his "resolute" will on numerous occasions for holding elections that cost less money lest it should hurt the economy.

In a meeting with his ruling Democratic Liberal Party's second in command Kim Yong-sam at Chongwadae Thursday, the president asserted that the government would strive until the end of the parliamentary polls to make them the cleanest-ever elections and called for the political world's absolute cooperation with the government.

Yet, various signs are that the presidential pledges may be nothing more than empty talk.

The political parties and their candidates are adding fuel to the corrupt atmosphere by engaging in premature campaigning in violation of the National Assemblyman Election Law. Campaigning is allowed only during the election period to be announced by the Central Election Management Committee in accordance with the election law provision.

The illegal activities of the parties and candidates are fanning the slackening of social discipline.

The growing power of a specific group in virtually all sectors of society, not to speak of the government, has prompted this ill phenomenon, especially in officialdom.

A ranking Chongwadae official, admitting the government has no clear means to cure the trend at present, suggested as the sole solution that leading figures set the example.

"How can a leader who accepts bribes control his men?" he argued.

The government is required to free the people of the preconception that only those who have neither power, nor money suffer disadvantages, he said.

As the president warned, the political or social status, low or high, should not count in cracking down on irregularities of officials.

A report from Pusan said yesterday that a former lawmaker from there, who is not very influential, was arrested for illicit campaigning. This will not work. If the government has the real will to ensure a fair election, it should get tough with "big shots" engaging in illegal electioneering.

Such really stern action by the government will help to enforce social discipline, restore public confidence and prevent the weakening of its power in the final stages of President No's term.

Bank of Korea Warns of 'Looming Instability'

SK1802022592 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 18 Feb 92 p 8

[Text] Kim Kun, governor of the Bank of Korea, yesterday warned of looming instability in the financial market this year.

In a speech before executives and branch managers of the central bank, the governor predicted heightening of financial instability in the wake of the stock market-opening, two elections, downscaling of short-term finance companies, additional interest rate deregulation and further liberalization of money and capital markets.

Kim noted that the central bank will initiate the second-stage interest rate deregulation plan, scheduled sometime between the latter half of this year to early next year, "in the second half of this year."

The second-stage interest rate liberalization program calls for a complete deregulation of lending rates, except for loans backed by government funds and the central bank rediscount, and long-term deposit rates with a maturity of more than two years.

The plan also features liberalization of the issuing rates of corporate bonds with maturity of less than two years and financial bonds with maturity of more than two years.

Kim, whose four-year tenure expires next month, emphasized that the central bank will siphon off loans from banks, issue liquidity control bonds, and control the timing and amount of foreign borrowing to cope with an influx of foreign capital into the Seoul stock market.

He added the Seoul stock market-opening has underscored the need to harmonize monetary policy with foreign exchange policies, saying that close information sharing between monetary and foreign exchange policy makers becomes all the more urgent.

The government noted that the monetary policy will be conducted within a framework of improving international balance of payment situation and restoring price stability.

He foresees that Korea's economy will experience a widening deficit in the current account and unstable inflationary pressure this year.

As if to ward off outside pressure for more money supply, Kim said, "when the economy is beset with uncertainties, the central bank should help the general public better understand true economic realities through accurate diagnosis and forecast."

He urged central bank personnel to redouble their efforts to develop policies to better cope with fast-changing economic development in and out of Korea.

The governor cited elections, changes in the South-North Korean relations, Korea's commodities and financial market-opening as uncertain factors that will affect the national economy and the financial market.

Kim noted that Korea faces a conflicting policy task of implementing financial liberalization to raise efficiency in the financial industry while pursuing a selective financial policy to strengthen the international competitiveness of Korea's industries.

He said Korea's current account deficit widened and inflation rose last year as a natural result of a growth-oriented economic policy. Despite a recovery in exports, imports have suddenly increased because of increased domestic demand, he said.

He estimated that Korea's economy grew 8.5 percent last year, powered by domestic demand. The growth rate slowed down in the second half of last year after a 9.1 percent growth in the first half.

The slowdown in economic growth rate is anticipated this year but in view of low unemployment rate and labor shortages in the manufacturing industry, the economic slowdown is not a worry, Kim indicated.

Kim cautioned that Korea can not expect a fast recovery in exports this year in view of economic uncertainties in the major industrialized countries including the United States. But inflationary pressure is mounting as a result of rises in public service charges and currency depreciation, he said.

Since the latter part of October, money market rates have been falling because of stability in the real estate market and cooldown in corporate capital investments, he said.

Especially, both short-and long-term interest rates have been falling especially after Korea implemented the first-phase interest rate deregulation plan, he said.

Falling money market rates and inflow of foreign capital have resulted in boosting the bearish Seoul stock market, he added.

Capital demand will cool this year as firms scale down their investment plan but the continuation of the conversion process of short-term finance companies into banks or securities firms, and inflow and outflow of foreign capital in the wake of the Seoul stock market-opening, will make implementing the monetary policy difficult, he said.

Kim repeated that the central bank plans to issue liquidity control bonds, including monetary stabilization bonds, at market rates on a gradual basis in the future.

Burma

Further Rejections of BBC Refugee Report Cited

BK1402112792 Rangoon Radio Burma in English 0710 GMT 14 Feb 92

[Interview between unidentified member of the Information Committee of the State Law and Order Restoration Council, SLORC, and U Nyo Maung, a villager from Pyuma village, Buthidaung Township—date not given; to be continued "tomorrow"]

[Excerpt] [Begin recording in Burmese fading into English translation] [U Nyo Maung] Three hired boats came down from upstream. There were three security personnel near them. I do not know whether the three security personnel called out to them or not. I was at some distance. At that instant the three hired boats landed there. After that four or five of them got ashore on the bank and began talking for a minute or two, and another group of Kalahs [people of Indian origin] came up. There were about 40-50 of them. They started using abusive language and began using sticks and dahs [knives] and a brawl broke out. At that moment a shot was fired into the air. They then got the gun and the security personel ran and shouted: Uncle, Help us! Help us! And they gave chase. When they chased him, the one who got the gun fired the shot. The one who got the gun told others to catch and bring the security personnel. When he said that we hid near the bank.

The women then came out on the bank and told the kalahs to return. There were half of them on the boat and half of them on the bank. Another shot was also fired. The security personnel asked me to help them. There was no ammunition left in the gun and we suggested pelting them with stones and we started throwing stones and we used a catapult. When the catapult was used the one with the gun jumped down from the boat and got into the hired boat which was drifting in mid-stream. They then danced on the boat. He told them to hand back the gun and go wherever they liked. They did not hand back the gun but threatened that they would take us and hack us with dahs. After that they followed them along the bank. We met two PPF [People's Police Force] personnel. With the help of the two PPF personnel we managed to get back the gun.

[Unidentified member of SLORC Information Committee] Did they give it back peacefully or did you have to wrest it back from them?

[U Nyo Maung] They did not give it back. They floated in mid-stream clutching sticks and dahs and told us not to get near them. The PPF personnel fired two or three shots. Another boat floated downstream and we chased them along the bank. We stopped the boat and one boat remained behind. Another boat escaped into Bangladesh.

The group which is below brought back the gun from the boat which had the gun. The Kalahs that went away did not die. I think the first shot was fired into the air. I don't know whether they shot it into the air or how they shot it because we were all lying down. Two boats remained behind. One boat floated down to Bangladesh. We did not see anybody die on the two boats. We did not see anyone drowning. We did not see anyone getting hit by gunfire.

There were 100-200 people on the three boats. They were brought back toward the bank. The police said that they were to be taken to the police station. After asking for the help of the villagers, we pushed and tugged the boat and sent them there.

There were a total of over 50 at Ngakhuya Police Station, and over 30 of them were men. Those who were in the boat that left totaled over 30 to 40 people. About 20 to 30 swam away and escaped. The police fired only the first shot. Afterwards, the Kalahs who got away with the gun fired shots twice. After meeting with the two police and when they called out, three or four shots were fired into the air. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Further on Interview

BK1502130292 Rangoon Radio Burma in English 0710 GMT 15 Feb 92

[Interview between U Maung Aung, director general of the Immigration and Manpower Department, and Myint Hlaing, subinspector of police and commander of the Ngakhuyagyi Police Outpost, Buthidaugn Township—date not given]

[Text] [Begin recording] [U Maung Aung] Some of those who attempted to flee to the other country were apprehended and brought back. We have learned that there were more than 100 persons who attempted to flee to the other side side on three boats. Among them, about 30 persons on the boat got away and more than 80 were left here. So you didn't see those who had got away? We know that you have interrogated those who were left behind. How many of them have the registration cards?

[Myint Hlaing] When we asked them, they answered that they did not have the registration cards.

[U Maung Aung] You didn't find any who possessed a registration card among those who are here. Did you?

[Myint Hlaing] That is right.

[U Maung Aung] There were approximately over 30 persons who went to the other side from among the three boats. About 80 were left on this side. What is the total of all those left behind here?

[Myint Hlaing] Six who grabbed the gun from the security personnel and fired plus 12 men plus 16 boys plus 18 women plus 12 girls—altogether 64. One left here with us.

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[U Maung Aung] It is said that over 20 passed Yedwinpyin and Upper Pyuma. What is the exact number? You said a group out of them passed their way beside the 64.

[Myint Hlaing] According to the villagers from Auk Pyuma, there were about 25.

[U Maung Aung] That makes altogether over 80 or nearly 90 of them.

[Myint Hlaing] That is right.

[U Maung Aung] Have you heard if any of them died, any wounded?

[Myint Hlaing] Absolutely none.

[U Maung Aung] What about drowning?

[Myint Hlaing] It is totally false. There was no one drowned.

[U Maung Aung] Are then any who went to the clinic?

[Myint Hlaing] No one. The incident took place at a place called Donlabya, which is situated down stream from Pyuma Kayindah village. Three security personnel from Gyobinchaung Police Station who were on duty saw three boats which came down along the Kyeinchaung and so called them ashore.

As soon as they came ashore they wrested the gun from the security personnel and fired. Then they fled and went down along the creek in their two boats. One boat (?fled). The security personnel ran after them along the bank and the security personnel yelled for help to the two security personnel from my police outpost. And then they chased them in two boats. Then they got back the M-16 automatic rifle from the hands of Kalahs [people of Indian origin] who were brandishing dahs [swords] and (?sticks) at the place where the Pyuma Creek meets Naf River. [end recording]

The account given constitues fact as retold by those who were personally involved in the incident, from eyewitnesses, and from the villagers of the neighboring villages who have knowledge of the incident which was broadcast by the BBC on 9 February.

Tin U Accuses Foreign Media of Fabrication

BK1502140992 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 14 Feb 92

[Excerpts] Major General Tin U, Army chief of staff, visited the Foward Military Operations Control Command in Papun and Pa-an in the Southeast Military Command today and held discussions with officials concerned on military operations and regional security matters.

He was accompanied in the tour by Brigadier General Min Thein, vice adjutant general; Brig. Gen. Nyunt Tin, director of the Artillery and Armor Unit; Brig. Gen. Tha Htay, director of supply and transport; Brig. Gen. Thein Tun, director of military equipment; Colonel Khin Maung Win, director of the defense industry; Brig. Gen. Win Myint, commander of the 11th Light Infantry Division; Brig. Gen. Tin Hla, commander of the 22d Light Infantry Division; and Brig. Gen. Lun Maung, commander of the 55th Light Infantry Divisions; and officials concerned.

Army Chief of Staff Maj. Gen. Tin U and his entourage left Yangon [Rangoon] in helicopters at 0750 today and arrived in Papun Airport at 0850. [passage omitted]

He and his entourage were given situational reports on military operations and security measures in the local area in the Operations Hall of (Ne Min Aung) Mansion of the local command. He also responded to the points raised in the reports and gave the necessary instructions.

Maj. Gen. Tin U and entourage then visited the local military units and met with military personnel and their dependents and gave them advice.

Speaking to the local military personnel, Maj. Gen. Tin U said he and his entourage had come on behalf of the leaders of the Defense Services who wanted to visit them but are busy with the affairs of the state. He said he had come to meet the needs of the military personnel.

Speaking on the situation of the country today, he said there is stability and that those who cannot bear to see this are broadcasting exaggerated and fabricated reports from some foreign broadcasting stations. He said they are spreading false news by describing the Defense Services operations against the insurgents, who are disturbing the public through various means, as a campaign to kill ethnic groups. Similarly, he said some foreign broadcasting stations are broadcasting fabricated and false reports to create misunderstandings between Myanmar [Burma] and neighboring Bangladesh. He said interviews conducted with local people in border areas and carried by the radio, television, and newspapers have already proven that these reports were false.

He said the Defense Services which are responsible for protecting the lives, homes, and property of the people, will have to fight and crush the terrorist insurgents who are hampering the prevalence of law and order and local peace and tranquility. He said the pace of local development programs will be slow in areas where there are terrorist insurgents. [passage omitted]

Maj. Gen. Tin U and his entourage then left Papun and arrived at the Forward Military Operations Control Command at 1215. [passage omitted]

At the Forward Military Operations Control Command, Maj. Gen. Maung Hla, chief of the command military apointment general, explained operations and security measures which were discussed and coordinated. [passage omitted]

Maj. Gen. Tin U and entourage then left the Forward Military Operations Control Command and arrived in Pa-an at 1240. [passage omitted]

In Pa-an, Army, he visited the No. 2 100-bed Defense Services Hospital and cordially met military personnel receiving medical treatment there. [passage omitted]

He and his entourage then proceeded to the conferenc hall of the 22d Light Infantry Division where they were briefed on the local situation and the military operations being conducted in the region by Brig. Gen. Saw Lwin, commander of the 44th Light Infantry Division. Maj. Gen. Tin U then coordinated matters after the briefing.

At 1600, Maj. Gen Tin U and his entourage held a meeting with state and township-level departmental officials and discussed programs for work and development activities.

Speaking at the meeting, he said the current political situation in the country is stable and that there are now only 34 political parties left after the Elections Commission had abolished parties that should be abolished. He said scrutiny on political parties are continuing to ensure they follow the rules and regulations.

Continuing, he said the year 1992 has been declared as the Year of the Economy and that efforts are being made to develop the economy on all fronts. [passage omitted]

Maj. Gen. Tin U and entourage left Pa-an and returned to Yangon [Rangoon] at 1740 this evening.

Air Force Planes Bomb Karen Positions

BK1702064592 Hong Kong AFP in English 0640 GMT 17 Feb 92

[Text] Bangkok, Feb 17 (AFP)—Burmese Air Force planes bombed Karen guerrilla positions in eastern Burma injuring at least two people, a Karen guerrilla official said Monday.

Four aeroplanes made three bombing runs on Sunday on the guerrilla positions a few kilometres (miles) west of the guerrillas' headquarters at Manerplaw, the official said.

Details of the attack were still sketchy and it was not sure what type of aircraft was used or the extent of injuries or damage, but at least two people were wounded in the raid, the official said.

There has been heavy fighting in the area since the Burmese Army launched an offensive to capture Manerplaw in late December. This was the third Burmese air attack since the offensive was launched.

Manerplaw is the headquarters of Karen guerrillas who have been fighting for greater autonomy for the last 43 years, as well as for pro-democracy Burmese dissidents.

General Than Shwe Receives Thai Deputy Premier

BK1402010792 Rangoon Burma Television Network in Burmese 1330 GMT 13 Feb 92

[Text] General Than Shwe, deputy chairman of the State Law and Order Restoration Council [SLORC] and deputy commander in chief of the defense services, received Thai Deputy Prime Minister Mr. Phao Sarasin, at 1400 at the Ministry of Defense's Dagon House.

Present with Gen. Than Shwe were Lieutenant General Phone Myint, SLORC member and minister for home, religious affairs, and culture; Major General Khin Nyunt, SLORC secretary-1; Maj. Gen. Tin U, SLORC secretary-2; Foreign Minister U Ohn Gyaw, and Myanmar [Burmese] Ambassador to Thailand U Nyunt Swe.

Mr. Phao Sarasin was accompanied by Mr. Kasemsamoson Kasemsi, minister of the prime minister's office; General Wimon Wongwanit, Thai deputy defense minister; Gen. Atthaya Phaeophanchon, director of National Intelligence Agency; Gen. Charan Kunlabuachaya, secretary general of the National Security Council; Police General Chawalit Yotmani, secretary general of the office of the Narcotics Control Board, and Mr. Wirasak Futrakun, Thai ambassador to Myanmar.

The Thai deputy prime minister and entourage arrived in Yangon [Rangoon] by a special aircraft this morning and were welcomed at the airport by U Ohn Gyaw, minister for foreign affairs and vice chairman of the Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control [CCDAC]; Police Major General U San Thein, secretary of CCDAC, and responsible personnel.

The Thai deputy prime minister called on Lieutenant General Phone Myint, minister for home, religious affairs, and culture, and chairman of CCDAC, at the minister's office at 1500. Responsible CCDAC personnel also attended the occasion.

The Thai deputy prime minister and entourage visited the Shwedagon Pagoda and toured the union pavilion in the morning.

Lt. Gen. Phone Myint, minister for home, religious affairs and culture, hosted a luncheon for the Thai deputy prime minister and party at the people's park restaurant at 1300. They also visited the 29th Myanmar Gems, Jade, and Pearls Emporium in the afternoon.

Thai Deputy Prime Minister Mr. Phao Sarasin and entourage, who came on a Myanmar-Thai goodwill program, left Yangon by a special aircraft in the evening and were seen off at the airport by U Ohn Gyaw, minister for foreign affairs and vice chairman of CCDAC; Police Maj. Gen. U San Thein, secretary of CCDAC, and responsible personnel.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Review of Border Ties With Thailand Begins

'Constructive Cooperation' Sought

BK1602012692 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 16 Feb 92 p 1

[Text] Langkawi—Thailand and Malaysia have signed an agreement to conduct a comprehensive review of their border affairs, Foreign Minister Asa Sarasin said yesterday.

Permanent Secretary for Foreign Affairs Witthaya Wetchachiwa and Malaysia's Secretary General for Foreign Affairs Ahmad Kamil Jaafar were appointed to coordinate the review, with a new package of proposals due by next year's meeting of the Thai-Malaysia Joint Commission.

Malaysian Foreign Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said he hoped that a committee that is "as comprehensive in its membership as its terms of reference" be immediately established to carry out the review.

Foreign Minister Asa and his Malaysian counterpart opened the fifth meeting of the joint commission at this island resort yesterday.

Mr Asa, who stopped for talks with border officials in Hat Yai on his way here, said he detected a strong desire on the part of local Thai officials to resolve border problems.

Malaysia took offence at what it described as four "border intrusions" by armed Thai officials conducting anti-smuggling operations last year.

Given the impact of the incidents, as well as the arrests last May of Malaysian forestry officials, border problems are high on the agenda of this forum.

Both Mr Asa and Datuk Badawi said yesterday's talks were fruitful.

"Between Thailand and Malaysia there is no alternative. We must maintain the best of ties," Mr Asa said in his opening statement.

While problems will remain, he urged both sides to minimise their impact and seek constructive cooperation that will bring about mutual benefit.

"Times have changed, and it is time we take a look at whether our treaties and agreements are still relevant, taking into account the new situation," Mr Asa said.

In their opening statements, both foreign ministers underscored the message that Thailand and Malaysia should not let border problems disrupt relations.

Since Government policy sometimes fails to filter down to the lower levels, the Malaysian Foreign Minister said, "it is imperative to ensure that the understanding reached at the highest levels be put into action at the provincial level."

Foreign Minister Asa said Thailand needs to improve internal coordination.

"We must find a way to improve coordination among us. The existing mechanism may not work and we have to repair that," he said.

The idea of a new mechanism for border issues was agreed when the two ministers met in Kuala Lumpur last July.

Fourth Army Region Commander Lt-Gen Kitti Rattanachaya, who also attended the meeting, said the army will play a key role in finding a solution and establishing a better understanding between the two sides.

"Problems at the border are natural. The issue is, how can we create understanding and cooperation?" he said, adding that the construction of a ferry had brought about greater contact and better ties.

The Thai and Malaysian ministers stressed the need to define areas of cooperation, besides resolving conflicts.

Mr Badawi called for the two countries to exchange views on the "Growth Triangle", an area including northern Malaysia, southern Thailand and northern Sumatra in Indonesia.

The "Growth Triangle" concept was initiated by former prime minister Chatchai Chunhawan and Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad.

Foreign Minister Asa said the Thai private sector along the border is keen to intensify joint venures with Malaysia.

Agreement To Widen Border Cooperation

BK1602152792 Kuala Lumpur Radio Malaysia Network in Malay 1430 GMT 16 Feb 92

[Text] Malaysia and Thailand have agreed to widen their border cooperation concept through the creation of a peaceful common border and solve the border demarcation issue. The fifth Malaysia-Thailand joint commission meeting which ended in Langkawi today gave mandate to the recently established committee on border cooperation to comprehensively review the issues.

Foreign Minister Datuk haji Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said the committee, which is co-chaired by Malaysia Foreign Ministry Secretary General Datuk Ahmad Kamil Jaafar, and Thai Foreign Ministry Permanent Secratary Mr. Witthaya Wetchachiwa, will review all related common border issues.

Thai Foreign Minister Asa Sarasin said the major objective of the committee was to review the border issues and upgrade cooperation not only at official level but also among the private, trade, investment, and tourism sectors in the border region.

In a joint communique issued at the end of the meeting, the two foreign ministers said the meeting was successful because positive results were achieved on some major issues, such as border demarcation and television frequencies. The committee will also review every aspect of the border issue, including the Britain-Siam treaty, and will provide a viable basic solution as soon as possible.

The joint commission meeting also agreed to open border checkpoints an hour earlier in an effort to provide easier access to traders along the common border. The border check points are currently open from 6:00 am to 6:00 pm daily.

Border Review Committee Created

BK1502143292 Kuala Lumpur Radio Malaysia Network in English 1330 GMT 15 Feb 92

[Text] The Thai foreign minister, Mr. Asa Sarasin, says the fifth Malaysia-Thailand Joint Commission meeting in Langkawi has set up a committee to review conmprehensively border cooperation between the two countries. He said Malaysian Foreign Ministry Secretary General Datuk Ahmad Kamil and Thai Foreign Ministry Permanent Secretary Witthaya Wetchachiwa have been assigned to review the cooperation. The committee will make concrete proposals on the border cooperation from the next commission meeting.

Mr. Asa was speaking to reporters after a meeting with his counterpart Datuk Abdullah Ahmad Badawi in Langkawi. He said both parties had agreed to review the border cooperation, which was one of the main subjects discussed today. Encik [Mr.] Asa said the committee would look into all aspects, including [words indistinct] as well as the need to create more contacts between people from both countries in investment and trade. He said today's meeting also discussed the code of conduct of officials of both sides to avoid negative impact.

Committee Cochairman Comments

BK1702062092 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0459 GMT 17 Feb 92

[Text] Langkawi, Northern Malaysia, Feb 17 (OANA-BERNAMA)—The committee to review border cooperation will study all aspects of cooperation and demarcation of the Malaysian-Thai border soon, its co-chairman, Ahmad Kamil Jaafar, said Monday.

Ahmad Kamil, the Malaysian Foreign Ministry secretary general, said he would be holding talks with the departments concerned prior to stipulating the terms of reference.

"After the preliminary guidelines have been specified, I will contact Thailand's Permanent Foreign Secretary Witthaya Wetchachiwa to discuss them before endorsement," he said in an interview here. Witthaya co-chairs the committee.

Ahmad Kamil said all aspects would be studied to ensure that the common boundary would be an area of peace and prosperity.

He said among the areas to be looked into in the study included the code of conduct of enforcement officers of the two countries to ensure efficiency and effectiveness in cooperation at the border, among other things.

Ahmad Kamil was here to attend the Malaysia-Thailand joint Commission Meeting (JCM) which ended Sunday.

Malaysia and Thailand reached an understanding to enhance cooperation and solve problems at the border, including its demarcation line.

Perlis Minister: Border Wall To Be Demolished

BK1702090892 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0817 GMT 17 Feb 92

[Text] Padang Besar, Northern Malaysia, Feb 17 (OANA-BERNAMA)—the 4.8 km border wall separating this town from Pekan Siam on the Thai side would be demolished this year to promote legitimate bilateral economic activities, Chief Minister of the Perlis state, bordering Thailand, Dr. Abdul Hamid Pawanteh said Monday.

The wall, built by the Malaysian Government in 1978 for security reasons, has since been rendered unnecessary by events, he told reporters during a visit to the town by Thai Foreign Minister Asa Sarasin and Malaysian Foreign Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

Dr. Hamid said the wall was useful when the Malaysian customs and immigration checkpoint was located near the Malayan railway station but it was shifted to an area nearer the Thai checkpoint last September.

The location of the wall had led to confusion and smuggling activities because the Thais considered a four-hectare vacant land between the wall and the Malaysia-Thai border as no man's land.

Army Chief Named New Armed Forces Commander

BK1402135492 Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 13 Feb 92 p 1

[By Sabry Sharif]

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Wed.—Army Chief General Tan Sri Yaacob Mohamed Zain has been appointed the new Armed Forces commander in a reshuffle of the top military brass

He takes over from Gen. Tan Sri Hashim Mohamed Ali who is retiring after 36 years' service.

The Defence Ministry also today announced that Gen. Tan Sri Yaacob, 56, will be succeeded by Lieutenant General Abdul Rahman Abdul Hamid.

In a statement, it said Lt.Gen. Datuk Abdul Rahman who is now the Armed Forces Headquarters commander has been promoted to a full general.

Army Corps commander Lt. Gen. Datuk Haji Borhan Haji Ahmad who is based at the Army Sungai Besi camp will switch posts with Army deputy chief Lt.Gen. Othman Harun.

All appointments are effective from April 11.

Gen. Tan Sri Hashim, who will be 57 this April, was due to retire in 1990 but was given a two-year extension by the Yang di-Pertuan Agong [paramount Ruler] Sultan Azlan Shah who is the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces.

The move then was to allow the Armed Froces to train its next hierarchy of generals to fill the leadership vacuum with the departure of veteran generals like Gen. Tan Sri Hashim.

Gen. Tan Sri Yaacob, who is widely regarded as a soldiers' general, joined the Army in 1953 and was commissioned two years later.

He is a graduate of the Royal Military Academy at Sandhurst, England, and has attended several senior defence personnel management courses, including the Royal College of Defence Studies (United Kingdom) in 1983.

He has also held several senior positions in the Army prior to his promotion to Army chief in 1987.

These included Military Intelligence director, Chief of Staff (operations) and commander of the Second and Third Malaysian Infantry Divisions.

Lt. Gen. Datuk Abdul Rahman is the first officer from the Royal Military College in Sungai Besi to be appointed Army chief.

Police Detain MP, Others, for Illegal Assembly

BK1502140892 Kuala Lumpur Radio Malaysia Network in English 1330 GMT 15 Feb 92

[Text] Police have detained 20 people, including a member of parliament [MP] and a state assemblyman, for taking part in an assembly jointly with residents of Kampung Bumi Hijau Setapak in Kuala Lumpur. The MP for Petaling Jaya, Dr. (Puah Kia Soong) of the DAP [Democratic Action Party] and the DAP assemblyman for Bukit Gasing (Chiong Siong Chuan) were arrested for joining 15 Kampung [village] residents in the assembly in front of the premises of Sharikat Perumahan Pegawai Kerajaaan [State Employees Housing Complex] at Dungun Road, Damansara.

Police also detained the president of the Malaysian People's Party, Dr. Syaifuddin Ali, and National University lecturer, Dr. Nasir Hassim, three women, and six children aged between six and 17 for taking part in the assembly. A police spokesman said they were arrested for taking part in an illegal assembly and obstructing traffic. Police also seized posters and banners from the group.

Foreign Minister's Visit to Cambodia Previewed

BK1702144692 Kuala Lumpur Voice of Malaysia in English 0800 GMT 17 Feb 92

[Station commentary]

[Text] This week, the Malaysian foreign minister, Datuk Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, will pay an official visit to Cambodia. The event underscores Malaysia's policy of enhancing its relations with all countries in the Southeast Asian region and elsewhere.

Datuk Abdullah will be the first Malaysian minister to visit Phnom Penh after the emergence of the new political order in Cambodia. The Malaysian Government has always supported plans for peace and stability in Cambodia. It may be recalled earlier that during the stalemate that followed Vietnam's occupation of the country in 1971, Malaysia was prominent in diplomatic moves for a peaceful settlement. Malaysian Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir Mohamed had promoted the idea of proximity talks. It was a slow and sometimes very discouraging operation.

However, ultimately the Cambodian factions and the Vietnamese reached an accord. Today Cambodian politics have moved into a more stable and dignified phase. Prince Norodom Sihanouk, who is respected by all Malaysians, is the head of the Cambodian Supreme National Council. The massive UN plan for the future political and economic growth of Cambodia is already taking place. The country deserves not only goodwill, but also substantial assistance.

However, everybody knows that real success will depend on the efforts of the people themselves. Cambodians are well aware of the worldwide collapse of communism. They and their leaders are enthusiastic about nurturing the free market economy. These aspirations are in complete harmony with ASEAN attitude. Malaysia is keen on exploring various avenues with a view to helping the economic growth in Cambodia. A group of prominent Malaysian business executives is accompanying Foreign Minister Abdullah Badawi.

Malaysia has the capital resources as well as the experienced (?executives). There are generally [word indistinct] good prospects for joint ventures with Cambodian nationals. The way has been paved to some extent by the opening of the Malaysian Embassy in Phnom Penh in December. Also, a leading Malaysian commercial bank, has obtained official approval to commence operations in Phnom Penh very soon.

Malaysia is not interested merely in the material aspect of relations with Cambodia. The foreign minister will be presenting books on the Islamic faith and Islamic culture to his hosts in Phnom Penh. There is no doubt within the coming months, there will be more contacts between Malaysia and Cambodia, both at official and unofficial levels. In the not-too-distant future, Cambodia will be welcomed into the ASEAN [word indistinct].

Cambodia

Khieu Samphan Warns of Continued SRV Occupation

BK1702035992 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 16 Feb 92

[Appeal by Khieu Samphan, chairman of the Party of Democratic Kampuchea; dated 16 February—read by announcer]

[Text] The danger is increasing that the 23 October 1991 agreement, which ended Vietnam's war of aggression in Cambodia, will be turned into an agreement legitimizing Vietnam's continued occupation of Cambodia.

The situation regarding the agreement's implementation is as follows:

1. Despite the close attention being paid by the international community and Cambodian national opinion to the issue, the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia [UNTAC] has not yet come here to ensure that all foreign forces are withdrawn from Cambodia. It is still not clear when UNTAC will arrive.

2. The agreement clearly says that the Supreme National Council [SNC] chaired by His Royal Highness [HRH] Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state, is the sole source of power in Cambodia. The danger is increasing, however, that the SNC will be pushed into a (?chaotic) situation to legitimize and cover up Vietnam's continued occupation of Cambodia.

3. UNTAC's delay in coming to Cambodia has encouraged Vietnam to intensify military activities against the Cambodian national resistance forces in the 14th dry season in violation of the 23 October 1991 Paris agreement.

4. UNTAC's delay in disarming the four Cambodian parties also is helping the Vietnamese aggressor forces to use this situation to cover themselves and carry out activities against the Cambodian national resistance forces at will.

5 Along with this, a large amount of aid has been flowing into Cambodia in the form of humanitarian, economic, social, and cultural aid; aid for rehabilitating and restoring Cambodia; aid to preserve Cambodia's historic temples; and so on. This aid should be given to the SNC, which the agreement clearly says represents the sole source of power in Cambodia. To conform with the agreement, this aid should be allocated, administered, and controlled by the SNC. However, in practice, due to the above-mentioned situation, the SNC has no rights, power, or means to administer and control the use of this aid.

Therefore, the administration of aid does not conform to the 23 October 1991 Paris agreement on Cambodia. In fact, this aid has not reached the suffering Cambodian people. It has not served the aim which has been officially set. On the contrary, a large part of it has fallen into the hands of the Vietnamese aggressors, who continue to occupy Cambodia and use it to sustain Vietnamese troops in attacking the Cambodian national resistance forces instead.

6. There are forces urgently pushing for meetings of the SNC, the SNC Secretariat, and the Mixed Military Working Group. These urgent meetings are being called for at a time when UNTAC has not yet arrived. There are forces pushing for new rules and legislation to successively introduce new meaning and new administration. Doing this successively—with new legislation, new meaning, and new administration—will in the end lead to a new agreement which is the opposite of the agreement everyone solemnly signed in Paris on 23 October 1991.

In sum, more than three months after the signing of the agreement to end Vietnam's war of aggression in Cambodia, the main essence—and the core—of the agreement not only has not yet been implemented, but the danger has arisen that this agreement will be diverted into one legitimizing Vietnam's continued occupation of Cambodia.

Taking all this into account, on behalf of the PDK, I appeal to national and international opinion to unite and thwart the danger that the agreement ending Vietnam's war of aggression in Cambodia will be changed into an agreement legitimizing Vietnam's continued occupation in Cambodia, and also to get all parties, signatories of the 23 October 1991 Paris agreement on Cambodia, to go back and abide by the essence and spirit of the agreement.

Along with this, it is necessary to unite and push for UNTAC's quick deployment in Cambodia with no further delay to start implementing the agreement, particularly the essence, the foundation of the agreement, which includes:

1. Control of the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Cambodia and guarantees that these forces will not return to Cambodia; and

2. Control of the disarming of all four Cambodian parties' armed forces.

On this occasion, the PDK would like to reaffirm its position of firmly standing by the 23 October 1991 Paris agreement. As long as UNTAC does not come to cooperate with the SNC chaired by HRH Prince Norodom Sihanouk to resolve the above two core issues and create a neutral political atmosphere in Cambodia, all other matters will remain unsolved. Solving other problems apart from these two core issues is the same as partially solving minor problems, and this runs counter to the Paris agreement on Cambodia, which mandates that the Cambodian problem must be solved comprehensively.

[Dated] Phnom Penh, 16 February 1992
[Signed] Khieu Samphan, SNC member and PDK chairman

Son Sann Interviewed on Peace Process

BK1602082592 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 0430 GMT 15 Feb 92

[Unidentified "station correspondent's interview with His Excellency Son Sann, president of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front, KPNLF, and member of the Supreme National Council of Cambodia, in Phnom Penh on 7 February 1992"—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] I am a representative of the Voice of the Khmer radio [VOK]. Greetings to His Excellency [H.E.] Son Sann, president of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front [KPNLF] and member of the Cambodian Supreme National Council [SNC].

First of all, I would like to thank Your Excellency President for granting me the interview in Phnom Penh today for dissemination to compatriots VOK listeners. I have heard that since Your Excellency President and colleagues have set up an office in Phnom Penh, the KPNLF has received a lot of support from the Cambodian people, among them intellectuals and students and compatriots who are mostly Buddhists.

While the KPNLF has received a lot of support and with it the hope of winning the forthcoming elections, a number of our compatriots, particularly those in the civil service of the State of Cambodia side, have expressed concern that after winning the elections, the KPNLF will abandon our compatriots who are now working with the State of Cambodia. On this point, can you respond?

[Son Sann] I would like to thank VOK for giving me the opportunity today to clarify this issue. This is not new. Years ago, I had specified to all Cambodians in the four parties, whether abroad or inside the country, that no one side has enough capable and competent people to build and develop our country. This can be done only with the four parties working together. The Phnom Penh side also has knowledgeable people. I know there are fully able and competent people in ministries in or outside the leadership.

Concerning the restoral of our country to the way it was before, compatriots know that even with the four Cambodian parties cooperating, we do not have enough people. You still remember that doctors, intellectuals, and teachers—even students—were killed. Since [the meeting in] Bogor, I have said to compatriots in Phnom Penh that I have no intention whatsoever to take over the jobs of the compatriots in Phnom Penh in the future. Those compatriots should be taken into account because we need those intellectuals to help carry out the task of rebuilding our country.

I would like to specify that we, the four parties, still do not have enough people. Therefore, compatriots now working and studying in Phnom Penh, in the future, have to work together to rebuild our country. I cannot lay anyone off. Everyone has to unite because, as you know, our country is lacking many necessities in every field. We lack people, doctors, teachers, and intellectuals. In the future, if we work well, people with capital will trust us and come to invest and assist in building our country, whether in industry, agriculture, or tourism. There is a lot of work to be done. There are not enough knowledgeable Cambodians to carry out the work.

I would like to cite an example. If we want tourists, we should have our own Cambodian airplanes. We do not have enough Cambodian pilots at the moment; we do not have enough staff working in the airline. Everyone knows that the present Pochentong Airport cannot receive large planes. Even if our country were developed, all four parties could not really handle the situation.

Thus, I would like to specify to all compatriots inside the country not to worry about this. We do not have such intentions. Only with national unity and cooperation can we survive, prosper, and have long-lasting peace.

[Correspondent] Thank you, Your Excellency President. You have come to Phnom Penh to take part in the implementation of the 23 October 1991 Paris agreement. What are your views on this at the moment?

[Son Sann] I have followed the news. There are four parties. At meetings, we still have a number of different ideas. At times, during discussion, we realize that our ideas are still vastly different. However, we still have to conduct research. My belief—which I have stated since 1963—is that our country can remain independent only when all Cambodians are united with nationalism and democracy. This has been my belief from the beginning; it still is.

Therefore, we have to carefully re-read the text the five major powers have drafted for us and which we, the four parties, signed in Paris on 23 October last year. I have re-read the full text and have not seen any mention of an administration apart from the SNC; the SNC has to work with UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia], which will soon arrive. I have seen only this. I have also seen that we have to work together. It is my belief that it should be this way. I always believe that if the compatriots have not yet reached compromise and mutual understanding to join hands to work in close cooperation to rebuild our country from now on, this will be a loss for us. If we work together well among the four parties, foreigners will see this and will have confidence in us; they will want to help us. People will invest in our country to assist in building industry, factories, and tourism, and so on. Investors will come once they trust us, seeing that we are united. When they do, there will be work. At that time, there will be no need to worry about anyone being laid off.

In the future we will ask for assistance from the World Bank and other organizations in Asia—I talked to them the other day. They will assist us and train us in our work. We have to show them we can organize our country to inspire their confidence. We have to plan this now. Furthermore, our knowledgeable compatriots abroad—doctors, teachers, and so forth—all want to come back. However, since we cannot yet work together, they have not come back. We should understand this. If we can compromise and reunite from now, we will have a lasting peace in the future. Foreigners and world organization will come to assist us. This will benefit our people and our economy. Do not say we have to wait until the elections. I think elections will be held in (?August or September) 1993 at the earliest—it is more than one year from now until then. So during this period of time our compatriots will continue to suffer and our economy will remain stagnant. One year would be lost. This would be a great loss for our people and country.

Therefore, I have again and again said to the four parties that the national liberation struggle against the Vietnamese aggressors (?ended) on 23 October 1991. Our four parties and a dozen other countries have agreed that Vietnam has to abide by the five major powers' solution and withdraw its troops under UN supervision. Everyone has agreed on this. We should not waste one year; it is very regrettable. I have again and again stated that the phase in which we oppose one another has ended. There should be another phase now of national unity. If we do not unite, even after the elections, we will not have peace and security. Therefore, we have to start uniting now for the benefit of our people who are suffering. I call on the four Cambodian parties to join forces to work for the sake of the country's interests from now on for the benefit of the country.

[Correspondent] Thank you, Your Excellency. During my stay in Phnom Penh, I have received reports that a number of our compatriots in Kompong Cham Province are facing a problem. They have difficulties in finding markets for their agricultural products. Sometimes, the markets are there but the products are sold at a cheap price. If this is really true, and supposing you are responsible for solving the problem, can Your Excellency talk about the measures to solve the problem?

[Son Sann] I have in fact also heard about this. Compatriots in Kompong Cham Province have faced this problem. I have heard that other provinces also are also facing problems. In my view, the four parties—even the Khmer Rouge side has said it has abandoned socialism and adopted a free market economy—have said they are adopting a free market economy. If they have said so, they should implement the Western world's economy, called a market economy, in which producers can freely sell their products to whoever offers good prices.

From what I heard, the authorities have told people in some areas to grow crops such as tobacco, bean, and corn with a promise to buy these products at a certain price, such as 60. Later, after compatriots have done their part and came up with products, the authorities have gone back on their words, reducing the price to 30 instead. Some compatriot producers have to borrow money to do their work. If they have to sell their products cheaply, there will not be enough money left to sustain themselves. Thus, the local authorities should allow the farmers to freely sell their products to merchants who agree to pay higher prices. This is my plea. Please have sympathy for the people. This is concerning the problem you mentioned in Kompong Cham. I heard that other provinces also have problems. Some compatriots, due to insufficient income to feed their families, have raised pigs but cannot sell them in the free markets; these have to be sold to those with the right to buy at inappropriate prices.

Since all the four parties have stated that they are adopting the free world economy, we should start from the present. This way the people will have confidence. If the people are now facing this problem, we should solve it. This would make the people very happy. They would support and thank those who solve the problem. People will see that Cambodians can get together. People will unite. Those currently working with the four parties will have mutual understanding and work together. This way we will have lasting peace in Cambodia.

[Correspondent] Thank you, Your Excellency President. Please allow me to ask about the situation concerning the freedom of press and religion, which is the aspiration of people the world over, including the Cambodian people. What are your views on this?

[Son Sann] We have said we respect freedom and human rights; if so, we have to respect the freedom of religion and press. The SNC, under His Royal Highness Prince Norodom Sihanouk, met at the Royal Palace and solved this problem. The four parties have also agreed on this. In my view, once we have agreed, under the leadership of the SNC chairman, we have to abide by it. This is a factor leading our country toward law and order.

Concerning freedom of press, I know that some parties have already put into circulation their bulletins. I am happy to know that our compatriots want to read, understand, and help, and His Royal Highness Prince Norodom Sihanouk has also praised the move. Concerning religion, in my view, over 90 percent of us Cambodians are Buddhists. If we want national reconciliation and unity among Cambodians, we should use religion as a bond for future unity. We therefore respect Buddhism. However, everyone knows that Buddhism has never called for banning the practice of other religions.

I would like to inform compatriots that in the old days, Buddhists did not mistreat followers of other religions; on the contrary, the latter persecuted Buddhists. Buddhism, which we respect, is very tolerant toward other faiths.

The KPNLF very much respects human rights and religious freedom. We know this and everyone else knows this. In our country, people are Buddhists; Buddhism is even the state's religion. However, we respect other faiths as well. We have Muslim and Protestant compatriots. Mosques and churches have been allowed to exist. In my view, no matter what, we should not disregard religious freedom. People should be fully free to follow their chosen faiths. If the majority of Cambodians want to adhere to Buddhism, they have the right to do so. This is a general principle for the information of our compatriots.

[Correspondent] Thank you Your Excellency. Finally, does Your Excellency have anything to pass on to the clergy and compatriot VOK listeners?

[Son Sann] I would like to inform the clergy and beloved compatriots that since we are now talking about freedom and human rights, I ask everyone to have faith in these ideals. According to the concept of human rights, if we believe in something, other people should respect our right to believe; however, we should in return respect other people's rights. Human rights do have their limits. Our human rights should not infringe upon those of our neighbors. All of us, although we are not the holders of power, have the same rights. Therefore, we should respect human rights.

I would like to take this opportunity to inform the clergy and compatriots in the ranks of our KPNLF that we have not yet stated what our party will be because this is not yet the time to do so. However, we are the party that has been adhering to democracy. We always propose what we want to do to our compatriots. Thus, when it is nearer the time for the election campaign, we will let people know what party is coming from the KPNLF. At that time, we will hold a congress asking compatriots in Cambodia—in a democracy, the people should be above everything else—to choose the name of the party of the front. We will let the congress of the people who support our front decide on this.

Now I have heard that the majority of the front's members want to call the party the liberal democratic Buddhist party. Buddhism because, democratically, the majority are Buddhists. However, this is Buddhism which also respects other faiths, such as Islam or Catholicism. I would like to inform you that in the front's ranks, we have Muslims. In France, there is Mr. (Sa Bou); he is probably coming to help us soon. He is a Muslim and a relative of (Leh Kasem). And Mrs. (Leh Kasem) will soon be our ambassador dealing with Muslim countries. In the future, if the congress is agreed, the party will be named the Liberal Democratic Buddhist Party; however there are compatriots in our ranks representing Muslims. They are not a small number, like Mrs. (Leh Kasem) and her relatives who are among our front's ranks. This is for the information of Cambodian compatriots in the country.

In conclusion, I would like to ask the clergy and compatriots to pray—I have asked for this a few times already—that our people quickly recover peace, order, and unity, and respect Buddha, the Budhist law, and the clergy, while also acknowledging other faiths, and also pray that our Cambodia will unite quickly, and be glorious and prosperous. This is my request. All compatriots please pray for this daily so that we achieve this quickly. This is to enable our suffering compatriots to enjoy happiness and prosperity.

[Correspondent] On behalf of compatriot VOK listeners, I would like to thank Your Excellency, KPNLF president and SNC member, for talking in detail to the clergy and compatriot VOK listeners. Thank you.

[Son Sann] Thank you. I beg to take leave of the clergy and beloved compatriots.

Son Sann Attends Buddhist Ceremony 15 Feb

BK1602071492 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 0430 GMT 16 Feb 92

[Text] At 0830 on 15 February, His Excellency [H.E.] Son Sann, president of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front [KPNLF] and member of the Supreme National Council [SNC] of Cambodia, and Mr. Son Soubert [Son Sann's son], vice president of the KPNLF, accompanied by a number of senior aides, including H.E. Thach Reng and Mess. Sar S'at, Sangva de Lopez, Liv Ne, and Keat Sokun, attended a ceremony to inaugurate a meeting hall at Khmuonh Monastery, Khmuonh commune, Russei Keo District, Phnom Penh City.

H.E. Son Sann was welcomed by the committee organizing the ceremony and Buddhist followers at the monastery. He greeted the 17 Buddhist monks staying in Khmuonh Monastery, monks from other monasteries, and the compatriots there. He then thanked the committee, saying he was moved and happy to have seen the local monks and people joining hands to rebuild monasteries, which represent the Cambodian people's sacred thing and Cambodia's soul and culture. He added that the move was also his longstanding wish. H.E. Son Sann also told the monks and people that Cambodia will soon recover its full independence and peace thanks to the assistance from the five major powers. He also attended a religious ceremony and distributed donations to families of war invalids in the monastery.

Before leaving there, the monastery's chief abbot invited H.E. Son Sann to visit small shrines and to praise the statue of Lord Buddha in the main temple. At 1000, H.E. Son Sann and his aides safely returned to his office in Phnom Penh.

Khmer Rouge Misses Mixed Military Group Meeting

BK1702084492 Phnom Penh SPK in French 0442 GMT 17 Feb 92

[Text] Phnom Penh 17 Feb (SPK)—The sixth meeting of the mixed military working group [MMWG] was held on Friday [14 February] as scheduled with the participation of responsible military officers of the Cambodian parties, except for Khmer Rouge [KR] representatives.

General Michel Loridon—commander of the military wing of the UN Advance Mission in Cambodia [UNAMIC]—who presided over the meeting by virtue of the Paris accord, vehemently criticized the KR military officials for their absence.

The meeting chiefly discussed basic questions, such as cease-fire, identification of each faction's mine fields, UNAMIC's control over the zones overrun by the four factions, and the deployment of liaison officers in the headquarters of all the Cambodian parties.

Gen. Loridon pointed out that truce violations had persisted and asked the commands of all the factions to order their respective soldiers to observe the cease-fire. In the immediate future, UNAMIC, according to Gen. Loridon, will assign all the factions to executing demining operations as well.

The meeting also examined the issue of troop cantonment prior to the arrival of the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia [UNTAC].

Mr. Loridon pointed out that the deployment of UNAMIC liaison officers in the headquarters of the SOC; National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia; and Khmer People's National Liberation Front, had already been completed, except the deployment in Pailin, which is under the KR control.

Moreover, the participants also discussed the issues concerning preparations for the coming of UNTAC, which will be made up of some 20,000 personnel, as well as the training of the 70 percent of the soldiers to be demobilized to integrate them into civilian life.

Sihanouk Appoints Buddhist Supreme Patriarch

BK1502095092 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 14 Feb 92

["Decision of His Royal Highness Prince Norodom Sihanouk"—dated 15 February; read by announcer]

[Text] In consideration of the proposal by His Excellency Chea Sim, chairman of the Cambodian People's Party [CPP] and National Assembly, I, Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and chairman of the Supreme National Council [SNC] of Cambodia, have the great honor of promoting Superior Bonze Tep Vong as Cambodia's supreme patriarch of the Buddhist Mohanikai sect.

[Dated] Phnom Penh, 15 February 1992
[Signed] Norodom Sihanouk

Sihanouk Speaks at Monks' Hospital 15 Feb

BK1602103192 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 0430 GMT 16 Feb 92

[Speech by Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and chairman of the Supreme National Council of Cambodia, at the monks' hospital in Phnom Penh on 15 February—recorded]

[Summary from poor reception] My respects to the supreme patriarch, Buddhist monks, "His Excellency [H.E.] Heng Samrin and madam," "outstanding leaders of the Cambodian People's Party [CPP] and the Government of the State of Cambodia [SOC]," foreign guests, the compatriots, and the staff of the monks' hospital. I am very happy to come here because the hospital was built with the contribution of my late mother. And I wish to thank of all you for having greeted me with a warm welcome.

I am pleased to have seen that "the CPP and SOC under the clear-sighted leadership of Their Excellencies Heng Samrin, Chea Sim, and Hun Sen" have provided me with the opportunity to continue "my task and the mission of our Sangkum Reas Niyum." "The CPP and SOC have continued with ardent courage and energy the mission of Samdech Euv [prince father] and the Sangkum Reas Niyum in defending and rebuilding the nation with a view to developing our country toward prosperity in all fields, especially in the fields of national education and health."

"Today, I am lucky to have been accompanied on my visit here by H.E. President Heng Samrin and madam." Lately, I have visited our people in a number of provinces and "next week, I will pay a visit to Svay Rieng and Takeo Provinces as well."

By the way, revered Buddhist monks just now asked me not to run away from the people any more. In fact, I have never abandoned you. It was Lon Nol and Prince Sirimattak, who forbade me from coming home. Also during Mr. Pol Pot's regime, five of my children, fourteen of my grandchildren, and many members of my family and the family of my wife were killed. And between 1975 and 1978, I was detained by Mr. Pol Pot's group and also deprived of freedom and rights. It was 21 years that I was separated from you, not able to live harmoniously with you as at the present time. "Now the CPP and the SOC Government, highly represented by H.E. Heng Samrin today, called on Euv [father] to come and again become the father of the nation. They have reaffirmed that the CPP and the SOC Government will work toward rebuilding the country and defending the nation's independence and territorial integrity as it was in the Sangkum Reas Niyum era of Samdech Euv. They have also pledged to promote Buddhism, our state religion, as it was in the era of Samdech Euv and the Sangkum Reas

Niyum. I am extremely moved, happy, and satisfied with the generous activities. So I have no longer intended to desert you."

However, I wish to call on you to allow me to travel abroad once in a while. "I will not be away for months, just, let us say, one month at the longest. Actually, I do not want to make the trip. So when you ask me to not go, I dare not go. I have been invited to go in March, but I have already postponed the trip. I have decided to stay with you. I do not want to be away from you." And as I have now seen that all of you and our religion have been revived and the process of rebuilding and defending the nation has made headway—I am happily satisfied with this—"so I have no reason whatsoever to quit you and the motherland. I am certain that I will be with you forever."

I wish to thank the hospital's staff for their efforts in providing care and treatment to our monks and people here. And I would also like to salute and thank all foreign guests for their valuable health development aid to Cambodia. We lack everything due to the Pol Pot regime. But now the CPP and SOC have successfully rebuilt the nation and reestablished the religion starting from scratch and continued to ardently solve a great many difficult and complicated problems as well. "While working with the CPP and the SOC Government in my capacity as the entire nation's head of state and chairman of the SNC," I have contacted the United Nations, humanitarian organizations, and the international community and asked them to come and help us. And since my homecoming on 14 November 1991, they have come one after the other to assist us in resolving the issues concerning our health, national reconstruction, living conditions, and education. That being the case, "you should have complete confidence in our future."

I have nothing else to tell you because you have already heard through the radio and television my previous speeches. By the way, I would like to tell you that a Swedish nongovernmental organization called (Action North-South) gave aid worth $1 million to the monks' hospital in 1991 alone.

Before concluding my speech, I would like to inform you that I have personally donated $500 and that the CPP and the SOC Government have given two million riels for the restoration of the hospital. I am very happy to have met with you and wish to say that "in principle, we have already achieved peace. Therefore, we should continue to join forces to rebuild our nation within the fremework of liberal democracy."

With optimism, I would like to pray that the triple jewels protect all of you. May you enjoy the five blessings of Lord Buddha. Thank you.

Sihanouk Receives German Envoy 14 Feb

BK1502110392 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 0430 GMT 15 Feb 92

[Text] At 1100 on 14 February at Khemarin Palace, His Royal Highness [H.R.H.] Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and chairman of the Supreme National Council [SNC] of Cambodia, granted an audience to His Excellency [H.E.] (Wolfgang Lech), permanent representative of Germany, who came to present his credentials. The prince was extremely pleased with H.E. (Wolfgang Lech's) mission in Cambodia and considered this a great contribution to restoring the solidarity and cooperation between Cambodia and Germany as well as promoting the implementation of the Paris accord.

H.R.H. Prince Norodom Sihanouk briefed his guest about the continued successful functioning of the SNC in Phnom Penh under his leadership. He added that Cambodia is presently implementing a multiparty system for the elections in 1993 to achieve national reunification and reconstruction, correctly executing and respecting human rights with a view to restoring genuine independence and peace. He considers H.E. (Wolfgang Lech)'s mission a contribution to enhancing and maintaining Cambodia's peace.

In his reply, H.E. (Wolfgang Lech) expressed pleasure and satisfaction with his mission in Cambodia, pointing out that the German Government and people had followed the Cambodian peace process since the signing of the Paris 23 October 1991 accord. He also enthusiastically welcomed and applauded the results the SNC has achieved and reaffirmed that Germany, from now on, was preparing to cooperate closely with the SNC, the five major powers, Indonesia, and other countries in executing the peace accord and will assist in the restoration and reconstruction of Cambodia if Germany is asked.

Akashi Thanks Sihanouk for Warm Reception

BK1402083392 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 13 Feb 92

[Text] On 6 February, His Excellency Yasushi Akashi, special envoy of the UN secretary general, sent a thank you message to His Royal Highness Prince Norodom Sihanouk, Cambodia's head of state and chairman of the Supreme National Council [SNC]. The message said, among other things:

Your Highness, I am back in New York. I would like to sincerely thank you for your reception given to me during my stay in Cambodia.

We were greatly impressed and encouraged by your warm support. I am very glad to see that under your wise and clear-sighted leadership, the SNC has worked fruitfully.

In this connection, allow me, once again, to thank the SNC members for their unanimous decision in giving to the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia [UNTAC] and myself those various buildings, without which the beginning of our mission would be delayed.

Your Highness, [words indistinct] reconciliation for joint progress, peace, and happiness.

Please, Your Highness, accept my highest and most sincere regards.

Sihanouk Replies to Letter

BK1402084892 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 13 Feb 92

[Text] On 10 February, His Royal Highness Prince Norodom Sihanouk, Cambodia's head of state and chairman of the Supreme National Council [SNC], sent a reply to His Excellency [H.E.] Yasushi Akashi, special envoy of the UN secretary general. The message says:

Your Excellency, the special envoy:

I am greatly moved by the good remarks and your valuable letter dated 6 February 1992 which was handed to me by H.E. Ataul Karim, head of [words indistinct] and of the UN Advance Mission in Cambodia [UNAMIC]. Thank you very much.

When you are here to lead the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia [UNTAC] and to control Cambodia temporarily in close cooperation with the SNC, new and greater developments will certainly be achieved in the comprehensive implementation of the Paris peace agreement of 23 October 1991. Your excellency will certainly get my firm support and assistance.

Please receive my warm and high regards.

Thai Minister Received by Sihanouk, Chea Sim

BK1702064992 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0518 GMT 17 Feb 92

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK February 17—A delegation of Thai Ministry of Finance led by its minister Suthi Singsane left here Sunday [16 February] after concluding his three-day official visit to Cambodia.

While in Phnom Penh, the Thai delegation called on Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and chairman of the SNC [Supreme National Council], during which the Thai minister expressed its willingness to accelerate relation with Cambodia's Finance Ministry.

He was also received by Chea Sim, president of the National Assembly, and conferred with Chhay Than, minister of finance of the State of Cambodia.

The Thai delegation visited silver pagoda in Phnom Penh and the Angkor Wat complex in Siem Reap Province.

Indonesia

UN Envoy Wako Ends Dili Clarification Visit

'Satisfied' With Information

BK1402104092 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0856 GMT 14 Feb 92

[Text] Jakarta, Feb 14 (ANTARA)—UN Secretary General special envoy Amos Wako said here on Friday that he was satisfied with the information he had obtained for his report relating to the Dili incident.

At a press meeting at the Foreign Office, Wako, who just had a meeting with President Suharto at Jl. Cendana [name of road], expressed appreciation for the cooperative attitude of the Indonesian Government and President Suharto's determination to punish all parties who proved to be guilty in the Dili incident on Nov 1991.

Since his arrival in Indonesia last Sunday, Wako had meetings with all parties he wanted to meet in connection with the Dili incident, including members of the National Commission of Inquiry (KPN), non-governmental organizations and those who were injured in the incident.

"I met several parties, including members of several non-governmental organizations and they all spoke honestly to me", he stressed, but declined however, to mention the non-governmental organizations he had met.

A comprehensive report on the Dili incident was expected to be completed as soon as possible for submission to UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus Ghali next week, Wako said.

Wako also expressed satisfaction about the results of his two-day visit to East Timor (February 13-14).

The UN Secretary General special envoy reiterated to the press that his visit to Indonesia was not to investigate but to seek clarification on the Dili incident which according to a report of the National Commission of Inquiry had caused the loss of 50 lives and 91 injured.

Foreign Minister Ali Alatas who accompanied Wako at the press meeting said that President Suharto on his meeting with Wako had explained among other things the history of East Timor, its integration process with Indonesia and the latest developments in the province. Wako who is concurrently Kenya's attorney general, at his meeting with the Indonesian head of state conveyed the Kenyan president's greetings and the desire of his country to attend the non-aligned movement summit, scheduled for September this year in Jakarta.

Answering the newsmen, the Indonesian foreign minister affirmed that the early reactions of several countries on the incident were rather exaggerated.

But due to availability of more facts on the Dili incident at present, the foreign minister hoped that perceptions of those countries and several non-governmental organizations abroad would become more balanced, objective and proportional.

Alatas considered the visit of Wako to Indonesia as special envoy of the UN Secretary General to obtain clarification on the Dili incident as proper.

Foreign Minister Ali Alatas further said that he planned to conduct second round visits to countries in North America, including Canada, and several European countries this month.

Wako and his four staff members were scheduled to leave Indonesia for Geneva Friday afternoon.

Consults With Suharto

BK1402081592 Hong Kong AFP in English 0656 GMT 14 Feb 92

[Text] Jakarta, Feb 14 (AFP)—Indonesian President Suharto said Friday that all those who infringed the law in November's East Timor massacre in which scores of people died would be prosecuted.

"The president was very clear. He said all found guilty will be prosecuted," the personal envoy of U.N. Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali, Amos Wako, told a press conference here at the end of a six-day visit to Indonesia to seek clarification on the November 12 shooting in Dili, East Timor.

Wako, who is Kenya's attorney-general, had earlier Friday paid a 50-minute visit to Suharto at his residence.

"Those who ever gave the orders to shoot or those who actually carried out the shooting will be prosecuted," Wako quoted Suharto as saying, adding that "he (Suharto) was determined that it happens."

"My mission was not to investigate.... My mission was to clarify ambiguities," Wako said, adding, "I am in a position now, to make a comprehensive report to the U.N. secretary-general."

He said the report would also include his own views and recommendations.

Army chief Eddy Sudrajat in January set up a panel to probe the Army's conduct during the Dili massacre, and Wako said that the panel would designate for prosecution any military members who may have infringed the law.

Fifty-six civilians who were rounded up after the massacre are being held in three Indonesian cities and will be prosecuted, some on subversion charges that carry the death penalty as the maximum sentence, officials have said.

Wako said he had met top officials from the government, the military and the private sector and "a wide cross section" of non-governmental organizations.

However, he has not met with military chief Sutrisno who Foreign Ministry officials said "was out of town" and met with his deputy, Sudibyo Raharjo, instead.

On November 12, troops shot into a crowd of mourners, some people waving anti-Indonesian banners, gathered at a cemetery in Dili to commemorate the death of a young East Timorese who died two weeks earlier.

A National Commission of Investigation set up by the government to probe the shooting said that around 50 people had died in the shooting while some 90 others had remained missing. Other sources said the death toll could have topped 100.

Jakarta unilaterally declared the former Portuguese colony of East Timor its 27th province in 1976, a move that has remained unrecognized by the United Nations.

Wako, who returned from an overnight visit to Dili on Thursday, was to fly to Geneva later Friday.

Resistance Expects Little From UN Envoy's Visit

LD1602125692 Lisbon RDP Comercial Radio Network in Portuguese 1900 GMT 14 Feb 92

[Text] The Timorese issue is going through a complicated phase and this is even acknowledged by resistance spokesman Ramos Horta. Indonesia seems to be gaining international credit again at the end of its diplomatic mission to Europe. Not even the visit to Timor by an envoy of the UN secretary general will raise hopes for a solution.

Ramos Horta does not believe there will be a faithful report on the Dili massacre mostly because Amos Wako comes from a country where there is an enormous similarity in terms of the methods used by Jakarta:

[Begin Horta recording] I never had any illusions regarding Mr. Wako. He is attorney general in Kenya, a country which currently has one of the most reppressive regimes in Africa. It is totally absurd that the UN secretary general has chosen for one of his envoys the attorney general of an African dictatorship, the same man who jails Kenyan political dissidents, and thus I have no illusions about the contents of Mr. Wako's report. [end recording]

Urges European Commissioner's Ouster

LD1602130592 Lisbon RDP Comercial Radio Network in Portuguese 2000 GMT 14 Feb 92

[Text] The Timorese resistance is angered with Abel Matutes' announcement. The sposkesman for Xanana Gusmao says that Portugal should ask for the European Commissioner's resignation. Ramos Horta protests over the resumption of cooperation between the EC and Indonesia and over the way Matutes referred to East

Timor. The Commissioner referred to Timor as an Indonesian province. We contacted Ramos Horta this afternonn in Geneva and he reacted with anger to Matutes' words:

[Begin Horta recording] The Portuguese Europarliamentarians and Minister Joao de Deus Pinheiro should demand Commissioner Matutes' resignation. I believe what he did is a deliberate provocation against Portugal. The commissioner is not aware of the East Timor status, he then confesses his ignorance, as you know, by referring to East Timor as an Indonesian province. I think that in view of the incoherence with his position, he should resign. I believe that Portugal should not ask for less than that. [end recording]

[Announcer] Ramos Horta is extremely critical of Portugal's position in the community. He says that there is no political will to face up to Indonesia, a country where violations of human rights are common:

[Begin Horta recording] The problem we are facing at the moment is not only relative to East Timor. There are massacres in the Atjeh and the west New Guinea provinces as well. The occupation of East Timor is an exceptional case, but violation of human rights take place all over Indonesia. There is therefore a greater responsibility for the European Community to be coherent with its declarations of 15 November which condition financial aid and cooperation to the observance of human rights in each country and therefore there should be punishing measures toward Indonesia. The EC did not even suspend cooperation with Indonesia. [end recording]

[Announcer] That was Ramos Horta complaining about the resumption of cooperation between the EC and Indonesia and he accuses the European Commission of not implementing decisions made at council level on 3 December.

Suharto Urges G-77 To Take Bold Economic Steps

BK1702111892 Jakarta ANTARA in English 1019 GMT 17 Feb 92

[Text] Jakarta, Feb 17 (OANA-ANTARA)—President Suharto challenged the G-77 countries to take bold steps in bettering their welfare as they are still beset by high level of poverty and low economic growth.

"I see that there is still a long road that we've to go through. But we couldn't just stand idly and just wait. We have to take actions," said president in the State Palace here Monday when he officially open the fifth conference of the G-77's Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

At the ceremony, attended also by Junior Trade Minister Sudrajad Jiwandono and Sotion Arjanggi, general chairman of the Indonesian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, he told the participants that developing countries should closely cooperate among themselves in developing their economy.

"We may find difficulties if we only rely on our own potential, but if we engage ourselves in a close cooperation many things we can achieve," he said to about 250 representatives of tens of developing nations.

He cited as an example that a product of a developing nation could be sold to other developung countries. "Hundreds of millions of developing countries' peoples stand as potential big market for us."

"Our future is not decided by others. We should rely on ourselves in bettering our welfare," he said, stressing the need for cooperation among developing countries.

He pointed out that unfairness and imbalanced conditions had hampered economic relations between developed and developing countries.

Touching on the formations of economic blocs, he opined that if all the economic blocs went harmoniously and work with a mutually-supporting manner, the world would see a very bright new era.

"Otherwise, if they conflict each other, we certainly will enter a bleak future," he said.

He called on international society to firmly commit themselves to the efforts of realizing a fair and non-discriminative trade system.

E. Timor Governor's Call for Surrender Applauded

BK1502070792 Jakarta BERITA BUANA in Indonesian 5 Feb 92 p 2

[Editorial: "An Appeal to the Security Disturbance Movement"]

[Text] Speaking at an inauguration ceremony for a new bridge over Karau Ulun River in Manufahi District on 31 January, East Timor Governor Mario Viegas Carrascalao made an appeal to GPK [Security Disturbance Movement] remnants who are still hiding in the forests to surrender. He told them to be aware that their struggle was futile and that it would instead be better for them to come out and join other East Timor residents in developing the youngest province of the Republic of Indonesia.

We welcome such an appeal. The appeal can be likened to a "call" by a father to his children to come back to their motherland. It also reflects the persuasive attitude of the "head of a family" toward members of his family who have protested and escaped into the forest.

The governor's appeal to the GPK remnants in East Timor to give up their struggle can also be applied widely to GPK remnants in other regions. For example in Aceh, it can be directed toward those who call themselves members of the "Free Aceh" movement and the "Free Papua Movement" [OPM] in Irian Jaya Province.

It would be good if these strayed members of the family could be convinced that it is impossible for them to win their struggles and that they should face the reality of the current situation and return to the "family" fold. Once they are back home, they can later participate in development to create harmony for the whole family.

What are the factors that led these people to become dissidents? Ignorance, intimidation, or misunderstanding could number among the reasons for the emergence of radical movements which later manifested themselves in the GPK. However, there are also other things that can turn a person to radicalism. The radicalism that exists in several countries is due to religion, ideology, race, and so forth.

When the people are suspicious, they feel that they are being discriminated against, left out, unfairly treated, and so on. Thus under such pressure, the seed of radicalism is sown in them. The seed will grow steadily when coupled with the unending problems faced by local residents, or when the people are undergoing rapid changes that in turn distort their roots and cultural values.

Normally we come across an accumulation of problems in big cities. The condition becomes more acute due to prevailing conditions such as urban overpopulation, people jostling one another, and people living very close to one another in slum areas. Apart from that, there are frustrations and controversial social values that the people have to put up with in their daily lives in big cities.

Such are the conditions that provide a fertile breeding ground for the seed of radicalism. A radical group can easily move into action with just a little bit of intimidation, and likewise, when some agents simply fan their jealousy toward social imbalance.

Wise people say there is one "recipe" that can overcome such problems and can prevent such social problems from recurring, or can prevent the seed of radicalism from falling on fertile ground. That is, the people must adopt a wise and open attitude. What is meant by wise in this context is open-mindedness that is supported by a guided extensive communications network.

There must be communication between people no matter what situation they are in. People must not become bored with communicating with one another via telephone. There is no end to the need for communication between the people and the government, and social groups.

The process of social change and transformation should be proudly handled by society, community leaders, and the government with an open heart. Priority should be given to emphasis on humanitarian feelings. This is because human aspirations may just be the most effective instrument to stop any inclination toward radicalism. Certainly all these measures could function without losing sight of the objective.

Laos

Vo Van Kiet Continues Visit; Activities Detailed

Siphandon Hosts Banquet, Gives Speech

BK1402034392 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0000 GMT 14 Feb 92

[Speech by Khamtai Siphandon, member of the Political Bureau of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee, LPRP CC, and prime minister of the Lao People's Democratic Republic delivered at a banquet held in Vientiane on 13 February in honor of the visiting SRV delegation led by Vo Van Kiet, member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee, and chairman of the SRV Council of Ministers; recorded]

[Text] Today, I am very happy to have the honor to welcome the Vietnamese Government delegation led by Comrade Vo Van Kiet, member of the CPV CC [Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee] Politial Bureau and chairman of the SRV Council of Ministers and a close friend of the Lao people, which is paying an official friendship visit to the LPDR [Lao People's Democratic Republic]. On behalf of the Lao Government and people, I would like to express my profound thanks to Comrade Council of Ministers Chairman Vo Van Kiet for bringing with him the friendship and special solidarity of the Vietnamese party, Government, and fraternal people to our Lao party, Government, and people. Your visit serves as a great encouragement to the Lao people to concentrate all efforts on studying and (?implementing in all fields) the resolutions adopted at the Fifth Congress of the LPRP in the development of the people's democratic regime.

Comrades, the Lao people are extremely pleased to see that in recent years, especially while the world situation has been changing in a complex manner, the entire Vietnamese party and people have united as one in walking along the path chosen by them to overcome numerous obstacles and to accomplish numerous important achievements in carrying out the cause of renovation, thus gradually improving the people's living conditions and firmly upgrading their social status. The Lao party, Government, and people wholeheartedly hail the great successes attained by the fraternal Vietnamese people and regard them as our own. [Applause]

Comrades, the Lao-Vietnamese special relations of friendship, which were patiently and carefully nurtured by the great President Ho Chi Minh and constantly safeguarded, enhanced, and strengthened by the parties, governments, and peoples of our two countries, have become a law for (?growth and) development of our two nations. In the new period, these relations will continue to unceasingly develop and bear fruit. On this occasion, on behalf of the Lao party, Government, and people, I would like to express our sincere thanks and profound gratitude toward the party, Government, and fraternal people of Vietnam for consistently rendering great and effective support and assistance to the Lao party, Government, and people both during the period of national-democratic revolution and in the period of national defense and national construction by the Lao people. We hold that the visit by Comrade Council of Ministers Chairman Vo Van Kiet and his party will become a symbol of the speedy growth and development of Lao-Vietnamese relations in the new period.

Amidst this joyous and happy atmosphere and for the (?enhancement) of our relations of friendship, I invite all comrades and friends to toast the glorious success of the visit to Laos by Comrade Council of Ministers Chairman Vo Van Kiet and his delegation; the Lao-Vietnamese friendship and special solidarity; the health of General Secretary Do Muoi; the health of Comrade President Kaysone Phomvihan; the health of Comrade Vo Van Kiet; and the health of all Vietnamese and Lao comrades.

Thank you. [Applause]

Vo Van Kiet Speaks at Banquet

BK1402055192 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0000 GMT 14 Feb 92

[Speech by Vo Van Kiet, member of the Communist Party of Vietnam, CPV, Political Bureau and chairman of the SRV Council of Ministers, delivered at a dinner banquet held in Vientiane on 13 February—recorded; in Vietnamese, fading into Lao translation]

[Text] First of all, on behalf of the SRV Government, I would like to sincerely thank the Lao party-state leaders and fraternal multiethnic Lao people for according us an honorable and sincere welcome filled with the spirit of comradeship and fraternity right after the first second we set foot on the beautiful land of Laos. I would like to express my sincere thanks to Comrade Khamtai Siphandon for your fine words about our Vietnamese party, state, and people as well as about the relations of friendship and special solidarity between Vietnam and Laos. On this occasion, our delegation would like to convey the best wishes and profound friendship of the CPV and the Vietnamese Government and people to the comrade party-state leaders and all heroic multiethnic Lao people.

Comrades and friends, our delegation is paying this visit to Laos at a time when the entire Lao party and people are putting into practice the resolutions adopted at the Fifth Congress of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party [LPRP]. We are overwhelmingly pleased with the numerous successes won by the Lao people in fulfilling the tasks of national defense and national construction and their initial victories of great significance in the social and economic fields in building and developing the people's democratic regime. All these victories testify that the restructuring line pursued by the LPRP and the Lao state is correct and creative. They testify to the determination of the entire multiethnic Lao people to closely unite around the party to build Laos into a country with peace, independence, unification, democracy, and prosperity. The Vietnamese people would like to wholeheartedly salute and hail these great victories of the multiethnic Lao people. We wish the fraternal Lao people new, greater victories.

Comrades and friends, I am extremely elated to see that thanks to our continuation of the tradition of honesty and faithfulness, the relations of friendship, special solidarity, and comprehensive cooperation between our two countries have been gradually upgraded and modified along the direction of increasing quality, effectiveness, mutual benefits, and, at the same time, sincere mutual assistance based on the spirit of comradeship. In face of the current international and regional situations and the needs for development in each country, our relations and cooperation must be increased to an unprecedented degree.

The meeting between the government delegations of our two countries this time is aimed at further putting into practice the various agreements reached by the high-level delegations of our two parties and states on 11 October 1991. We firmly believe that we have enough capability to elevate the cause of comprehensive cooperation between Vietnam and Laos to a higher level, thus responding to the aspirations and interests of the people in each country for the sake of prosperity of each nation and the happiness and wealth of the people, contributing to turning Southeast Asia into a zone of peace, cooperation, and development.

On the basis of this spirit, I invite you, comrades, to toast together with me to wish the multiethnic Lao people new greater achievements in fulfilling the cause of restructuring and the resolutions adopted at the fifth LPRP congress.

May the relations of friendship, special solidarity, and all-round cooperation between Vietnam and Laos last forever.

Let us toast the health of Comrade Kaysone Phomvihan and other leaders of the Lao party and state.

Let us toast the health of beloved and respected Comrade Khamtai Siphandon.

Let us toast the health of all comrades and friends present at this banquet.

Delegations Hold Talks 14 Feb

BK1402142192 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1200 GMT 14 Feb 92

[Text] This morning, the delegation of the Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR] led by

Comrade Khamtai Siphandon, member of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee Political Bureau and prime minister of the LPDR, held an official meeting with the SRV Government delegation led by Comrade Vo Van Kiet, member of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee Political Bureau and chairman of the SRV Council of Ministers.

During the meeting, Comrade Prime Minister Khamtai Siphandon, on behalf of the Lao Government and people, expressed profound thanks and appreciation to Comrade Council of Ministers Chairman Vo Van Kiet and his delegation for the friendship and special solidarity of the fraternal Vietnamese party, Government, and people they have brought to the Lao party, Government, and people. Comrade Khamtai Siphandon highly appraised the visit of the Vietnamese party-state delegation, which serves as encouragement to the Lao people to concentrate all efforts for the restructuring in all fields in accordance with the resolution adopted at the fifth LPRP congress and for the establishment and development of the popular democratic system. He said: the Lao people are extremely pleased to see that in recent years, especially while the world situation has been changing in a complex manner, the entire Vietnamese party and people have united as one in walking along the path they have chosen to overcome numerous obstacles and to accomplish extremely important achievements in carrying out the cause of renovation, thus gradually improving the people's living conditions and firmly upgrading their social status.

Comrade Khamtai Siphandon reiterated that the Lao-Vietnamese special relations of friendship, which were patiently and carefully nurtured by Great President Ho Chi Minh and constantly safeguarded, enhanced, and strengthened by the parties, governments, and peoples of our two countries, have become a law for existence and development and will continue to unceasingly develop and bear fruit. The LPDR regards the visit of Comrade Vo Van Kiet and his delegation as being a milestone in the development of Lao-Vietnamese relations in the new era.

Comrade Chairman of Council of Ministers Vo Van Kiet expressed thanks to Lao party and Government leaders and fraternal Lao multiethnic people for the honorable and comradely reception. Comrade Vo Van Kiet expressed his great pleasure to see that through the sincere, traditional solidarity, the relations of friendship, special solidarity, and all-round cooperation between our two countries have been continuously developed and modified along the direction of increasing quality and effectiveness and mutual benefits.

The meeting between the delegations of the two countries was aimed at further putting into practice the various agreements reached by the two parties and governments on 11 October 1991. The SRV Government is confident that the two countries have enough capability to elevate the cause of comprehensive cooperation between Vietnam and Laos to a higher level, thus responding to the aspiration and interests of the people in each country for the sake of the prosperity of each nation and the happiness and wealth of the people, contributing to turning Southeast Asia into the zone of peace, cooperation, and development.

The meeting proceeded in an atmosphere of friendship and openess.

Prior to the meeting, Comrade Vo Van Kiet and his delegation laid wreaths at the monument of unknown combatants to pay homage to the souls of Lao combatants and heroes who have sacrificed their lives for the causes of the country and multiethnic people during the struggle for national liberation and the period of national defense and construction.

Meets Nouhak Phoumsavan 14 Feb

BK1502064392 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0000 GMT 15 Feb 92

[Text] Yesterday, at the new reception room of the Supreme People's Assembly [SPA], Comrade Nouhak Phoumsavan, member of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party [LPRP] Central Committee Political Bureau and chairman of the SPA, received Comrade Vo Van Kiet, member of the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] Central Committee Political Bureau and chairman of the SRV Council of Ministers, and the SRV Government delegation which is paying an official friendship visit to the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR] from 13 to 15 February.

Comrade SPA Chairman Nouhak Phoumsavan highly assessed the visit to the LPDR by Comrade Vo Van Kiet and his party, which is the first visit ever paid to Laos by a delegation of the SRV Government following the Seventh CPV Congress and the Fifth LPRP Congress.

He noted: This visit marked an important step of new development in the continual strengthening of the traditional relations of friendship, special solidarity, and comprehensive cooperation between the parties, governments, and peoples of the two countries. Speaking on behalf of the party, the SPA, and the Lao Government and people, Comrade SPA Chairman Nouhak Phoumsavan conveyed profound thanks and gratitude to the party, the National Assembly, the SRV Government, and the fraternal Vietnamese people for having given assistance and support to the Lao people's revolution in the past as well as during the current period in which the Lao people are energetically implementing the line of restructuring.

Comrade Vo Van Kiet expressed utmost thanks to and satisfaction with the warm and intimate welcome accorded him by the SPA chairman during the call. At the same time, he once again reiterated that he would firmly continue to further strengthen the special relations of friendship and all-around cooperation between the parties, governments, and peoples of the two countries.

Cooperation Agreements Detailed

BK1702102492 Vientiane KPL in English 0859 GMT 17 Feb 92

[Text] Vientiane, February 17 (KPL)—Vo Van Kiet, Politburo member of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee, president of the SRV Council of Ministers [CM], and his delegation returned home on February 15 afternoon by a special plane, ending a three-day state visit to Laos at the invitation of Lao PDR [People's Democratic Republic] Prime Minister Khamtai Siphandon.

Vo Van Kiet and his delegation were seen off at the Wattai Airport by Khamtai Siphandon and many other senior government officials of the Lao PDR.

Here, the visiting Vietnamese Government delegation signed with the Lao Government delegation cooperation agreements for 1992-1995 and for 1992 between Laos and Vietnam.

The 1992-1995 cooperation agreement was signed by Khamphoui Keoboualapha, Politburo member of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee [LPRP CC], vice prime minister and minister of economy, planning, and finance, on the Lao side, and by Do Quoc Sam, member of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee, president of the State Planning Committee, on the Vietnamese side.

As for the 1992 cooperation agreement, it was signed by Khamsai Souphanouvong, member of the LPRP CC, deputy minister of economy, planning, and finance, and by Tran Khai, vice president of the State Planning Committee vice president of the Vietnam-Lao cooperation commission.

Witnessing the signing of the two cooperation agreements were Lao Prime Minister Khamtai Siphandon and Vietnamese CM President Vo Van Kiet together with the government delegations of the two countries.

Joint Communique Summarizes Visit

BK1502163792 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 15 Feb 92

[Joint communique issued on the official friendship visit to Laos by Vo Van Kiet and delegation on 13-15 February 1992]

[Text] 1. Accepting the invitation of Comrade Khamtai Siphandon, prime minister of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR], the SRV delegation led by Comrade Vo Van Kiet, chairman of the Council of Ministers, paid an official friendship visit to the LPDR from 13 to 15 February 1992.

2. During the visit, Chairman Vo Van Kiet and his entourage paid a floral tribute to the Lao heroes and fallen combatants at the War and Death Monument. The delegation visited some economic and cultural establishments in Vientiane. At these places, Chairman Vo Van Kiet and the delegation were warmly received.

3. Comrade Kaysone Phomvihan, president of the Central Committee of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party and president of the LPDR and some leading comrades of the Lao party and Government warmly received Comrade Vo Van Kiet and his entourage.

4. Chairman Vo Van Kiet and Prime Minister Khamtai Siphandon held talks in an atmosphere of friendship, openness, and full of brotherliness. Attending the talks on the Vietnamese side were Comrade Do Quoc Sam, chairman of the State Planning Commission; Tran Quang Co, first deputy minister of foreign affairs; Tran Khai, vice chairman of the State Planning Commission and vice president of the SRV-Laos Cooperation Subcommittee; Le Kim Lang, deputy minister of commerce and tourism; Le Ngoc Hoan, deputy minister of communications and posts; Nguyen Van Trong, deputy minister of finance; Vuong Ngoc Toan, deputy minister of education and training; Vu Dinh Thuan, deputy director of the Office of the Council of Ministers; and Nguyen Xuan, SRV ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to the LPDR.

On the Lao side were Comrade Khamphoui Keoboualapha, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers and minister of economics, planning, and finance; Thongluon Sisoulit, deputy minister of foreign affairs; Khamsai Souphanouvong, deputy minister of economics, planning, and finance; Phimmason, deputy minister of education and sports; Sompadit Volasan, deputy minister of trade and tourism; Himmakon Manotham, deputy minister of communications, transport, posts, and construction; Doungdi Soutthichak, deputy director of the Office of the Prime Minister; and Khamphet Phengmeuang, LDPR ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to SRV.

5. During the talks, Prime Minister Khamtai Siphandon and Chairman Vo Van Kiet exchanged information on the socioeconomic situation in their respective countries, the implementation of the resolutions of their respective parties, and the measures for realizing the joint Laos-Vietnam declaration of 15 October, 1991. They also discussed the agreements between the top leaders of the two parties to bring the Lao-SRV multisided cooperation to a new stage for the development of each country, their prosperity, and the happiness of their peoples. Views on other international and regional issues of common interest were also exchanged.

6. Prime Minister Khamtai Siphandon warmly welcomed and highly valued the important initial achievements of the renovation in Vietnam. He wished the Vietnamese people more great achievements in implementing the resolution of the Seventh Congress of the Communist Party of Vietnam, the further progress of its renovation to build a socialist and powerful Vietnam, contributing to the common cause of world peace,

national independence, democracy, and social progress. Chairman Vo Van Kiet highly acclaimed the success scored by the ethnic Lao people in implementing the resolutions of the Fifth Congress of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party. This has been aimed at strengthening the people's democracy based on increasing ethnic Lao unity and on economic, cultural, and social development, improving the living conditions of the people and in maintaining social order. He sincerely wished the Lao people more great achievements in the renovation to successfully build a peaceful, independent, democratic, united, and prosperous Laos for the happiness of the ethnic Lao people, and for peace, stability, and development in Southeast Asia and the world over.

7. The leaders of the two governments reaffirmed the determination of the two parties and peoples to defend and strengthen Lao-Vietnamese ties of special solidarity, to continue renovating their multiformed cooperation focussing on efficiency, quality, and mutual reciprocity in the interest of the development of the two countries. In this context, they discussed their strategic cooperation in the new stage, signed a cooperation agreement on economy, culture, science and technology for 1992-1995 and for 1992. They also considered the actual potential of each country and decided on new measures to step up cooperation in the economic, commercial, scientific, technical, cultural, tourist and sports sectors, as well as in personnel training.

8. The two sides agreed that the agencies concerned should continue to negotiate and sign the agreements on the problems to form a legal basis for the new cooperation mechanism between the two countries as soon as possible.

9. Chairman Vo Van Kiet reaffirmed that the Vietnamese would continue to create every favorable condition for the Lao side to gain access to the sea to satisfy all their demands in the export and import of goods through Vietnamese ports.

The two sides have agreed to consider the cooperation formulas in the construction and use of the Hon La port on the central Vietnamese coast in conformity with the laws of each country and with international laws, based on the principle of mutual benefit by taking into account the priorities and privileges reserved for each other on the basis of their special relations.

10. Council of Ministers Chairman Vo Van Kiet and Prime Minister Khamtai Siphandon were unanimous that the international situation has undergone swift and complex development. In this context, all states should focus on ameloriating international relations for the cause of peace and development.

On regional ties, the two sides noted with pleasure the developments in each country's relations with the PRC following the normalization of their respective bilateral relations with the PRC.

The two sides expressed satisfaction over the development in their respective ties with the ASEAN states and unanimously viewed this as an important contribution to building Southeast Asia into a zone of peace, stability, friendship, and cooperation.

The two sides reaffirmed their continued efforts to widen their friendship and cooperation based on an equal-footing and on mutual benefit with all the countries in the region and the world.

In this connection, the two sides welcomed the ASEAN summit conference declaration in Singapore on 27-28 January 1992, which affirmed building closer ties with the Indochinese countries based on friendship, cooperation, and the active participation in the reconstruction program of Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia. They welcomed the eventual adherance of the Southeast Asian countries to the Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation in Southeast Asia signed in Bali in 1976. Vietnam and Laos have declared their readiness to adhere to this treaty with the ASEAN countries.

11. The two sides unanimously viewed that the signing of the Paris accord on Cambodia had given the Cambodian people the opportunity to implement national reconciliation and concord in the advance toward building an independent, sovereign, peaceful, neutral, and nonaligned Cambodia which has friendly relations with all countries, and first of all with all its neighbors.

As the signatory countries of the Paris accords, the two sides have reaffirmed their determination to strictly observe these accords and their readiness to cooperate with all countries and signatory parties to contribute to its implementation on the basis of respect for the sovereignty and self-determination of the Cambodian people, as well as for the sovereignty and security of the neighboring countries of Cambodia and for the UN Charter.

12. Chairman Vo Van Kiet expressed his sincere gratitude for the solemn welcome as well as for the profound sentiments and hospitality which the party, the government, and the fraternal multiethnic Lao people have reserved for his delegation. He invited Prime Minister Khamtai Siphandon to pay an official friendship visit to the SRV. Prime Minister Khamtai Siphandon accepted the invitation with pleasure.

Vientiane, 15 February 1992.

Deputy Foreign Minister Comments on Visit

BK1602115792 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1200 GMT 16 Feb 92

[Statement by Thongloun Sisoulit, member of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee and deputy foreign affairs minister of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, at a news conference in Vientiane on 15 February—recorded]

[Text] In response to the invitation of Comrade Khamtai Siphandon, prime minister of the Lao People's Democratic

Republic [LPDR], the delegation of the SRV Government led by Comrade Vo Van Kiet, chairman of the SRV Council of Ministers [CM], paid an official friendship visit to the LPDR from 13 to 15 February 1992.

During their stay in Laos, CM Chairman Vo Van Kiet and his entourage laid a wreath in memory of heroic fallen Lao combatants at the Monument of Lao Revolutionary Combatants. CM Chairman Vo Van Kiet and his entourage visited some economic and cultural foundations in Vientiane capital, where they were warmly received.

Comrade Kaysone Phomvihan, chairman of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee [LPRP CC] and LPDR president, and a number of comrades in the Lao party-state leadership intimately received the courtesy calls from Comrade Vo Van Kiet and his entourage.

Prime Minister Khamtai Siphandon and CM Chairman Vo Van Kiet held talks in an atmosphere of friendship, openness, and full of a sense of comradeship and brotherliness. Attending the talks on the Lao side were Comrade Khamphoui Keoboualapha, deputy prime minister and minister of economy, planning, and finance; Comrade Thongloun Sisoulit, deputy foreign affairs minister; Comrade Khamsai Souphanouvong, deputy minister of economy, planning, and finance; Comrade Phimmason, deputy minister of education and sports; Comrade Himmakon Manotham, deputy minister of communications, transport, posts, and construction; Comrade Sompadit Volasan, deputy minister of trade and tourism; Comrade Doungdi Soutthachak, deputy head of the Prime Minister's Office; and Comrade Khamphet Phengmeuang, LPDR ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to the SRV. Attending the talks on the Vietnanmese side were Comrade Do Quoc Sam, chairman of the State Planning Commission; Comrade Tran Quang Co, deputy foreign affairs minister; Comrade Tran Khai, vice chairman of the State Planning Commission and vice chairman of the Vietnam-Laos Cooperation Committee; Comrade Le Kim Lang, deputy minister of trade and tourism; Comrade Le Ngoc Hoan, deputy minister of communications, transport, and posts; Comrade Nguyen Van Trong, deputy minister of finance; Comrade Vuong Ngoc Toan, deputy minister of education and training; Comrade Vu Dinh Thuan, deputy director of the Office of the Council of Ministers; and Comrade Nguyen Xuan, SRV ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to the LPDR.

During the talks, Prime Minister Khamtai Siphandon and CM Chairman Vo Van Kiet informed each other of the socioeconomic situation in their respective countries, the development of the implementation of the resolutions adopted by the congresses of each party; exchanged views on the measures aimed at implementing the 15 October 1991 joint Laos-Vietnam communique, as well as the agreements reached by high-level leaders of the two parties, aimed at bringing the Lao-Vietnamese multisided cooperation to a new stage in the development of each country, their mutual prosperity, and the happiness and plentifulness of their peoples. The two sides exchanged views on international and regional issues of common interest.

Prime Minister Khamtai Siphandon wholeheartedly hailed and highly valued the important initial achievements of the renovation in Vietnam. He sincerely wished the Vietnamese people more new successes in implementing the resolutions adopted at the Seventh Congress of the Communist Party of Vietnam and in continuing to take the cause of renovation forward to build Vietnam into a rich and powerful country, thus honorably contributing to the common cause of the world people for peace, national independence, democracy, and social progress.

CM Chairman Vo Van Kiet wholeheartedly hailed and highly assessed the victories won by the fraternal multiethnic Lao people in implementing the resolutions adopted at the Fifth LPRP Congress, aimed at strengthening the people's democratic regime on the basis of increasing the ethnic Lao unity and cohesion for the economic, cultural, and social development, the improvement of the people's living conditions, and the maintenance of peace and social order. CM Chairman Vo Van Kiet sincerely wished the Lao people greater victories in the cause of renovation, aimed at building Laos into a peaceful, independent, democratic, unified, and prosperous country for the wealth and happiness of the multiehtnic Lao people and for peace, stability, and development in Southeast Asia and the world.

The leaders of the governments of the two countries reaffirmed the determination of the two parties and peoples to safeguard and to strengthen the Lao-Vietnamese special relations of solidarity. At the same time, they also pledged never to decrease the renovation of the comprehensive cooperation between the two countries along the direction of placing importance on efficiency, quality, and mutual benefits, and of giving privileges and generous treatment to each other in the interest and for the development of the two countries.

On the basis of this spirit, the two sides exchanged views on the strategic path of cooperation between the two countries in the new period. At the same time, they also signed a cooperation agreement in the economic, cultural, scientific, and technical fields for the period from 1992 to 1995 and for the year 1992. The two sides discussed the actual potential of each side and decided on various new measures aimed at promoting cooperation in the economic, trade, scientific, technical, cultural, tourism, and sports fields, as well as in cadre training.

The two sides agreed to allow the services concerned to continue to hold negotiations and to sign agreements on detailed issues to form a legal basis for the mechanism of new cooperation in the near future.

CM Chairman Vo Van Kiet reaffirmed that the Vietnamese side would continue creating all favorable conditions for the Lao side to gain access to the sea to entirely satisfy the requirements of the Lao side in the export and import of goods through Vietnamese sea ports.

The two sides agreed to study the cooperation formula in the construction and use of the port of Hon La on the central Vietnamese coast in conformity with the laws of each country and international laws on the basis of the principles of mutual benefits by taking into account the priorities and generosity reserved for each other on the basis of Lao-Vietnamese special relations.

Prime Minister Khamtai Siphandon and CM Chairman Vo Van Kiet unanimously agreed that the international situation is changing in a complex and rapid pace. In the face of this development, all states should concentrate efforts on ameliorating international relations for the cause of peace and development. With regard to regional relations, the two sides noted with pleasure the development in each country's relations with the PRC following the normalization of their respective bilateral relations with that country.

The two sides expressed satisfaction with the development in each country's relations with the ASEAN countries and unanimously viewed this as an important contribution to building Southeast Asia into a region of peace, stability, friendship, and cooperation. The two sides reaffirmed to continue broadening the relations of friendship and cooperation based on the principle of equality and mutual benefit with all countries in the region and the world. On the basis of this spirit, the two sides welcomed the declaration of the ASEAN summit held in Singapore on 27 and 28 January 1992, which affirmed the building of closer ties with the countries in Indochina on the basis of friendship, cooperation, and the active participation in the international programs for the reconstruction of Laos, Vietnam, and Cambodia. They welcomed all countries in Southeast Asia to participate in the implementation of the Traty of Friendship and Cooperation in Southeast Asia signed in Paris in 1976. Laos and Vietnam reiterated their readiness to adhere to this treaty with the ASEAN countries.

The two sides unanimously viewed that the signing of the Paris agreement on the Cambodian problem had created a favorable opportunity for the Cambodian people to achieve national reconciliation and to march forward to build Cambodia into a country with independence, sovereignty, peace, neutrality, and nonaligned status, having the relations of friendship with all countries, first of all with the neighboring countries.

As the signatory countries of the Paris agreement, the two sides reaffirmed their determination to strictly respect and implement this agreement and to stand ready to give cooperation to all countries and signatory parties to allow the agreement to be implemented on the basis of respect for the sovereignty and the right of self-determination of the Cambodian people as well as for the respect of sovereignty and security of the neighboring countries of Cambodia and of the UN Charters.

CM Chairman Vo Van Kiet expressed his sincere thanks for the honorable welcome, the profound affection, and the intimate hospitality which the fraternal Lao party, Government, and people have extended to his delegation. He invited Prime Minister Khamtai Siphandon to pay an official friendship visit to the SRV. Prime Minister Khamtai Siphandon accepted the invitation with pleasure.

Visit Called 'Extremely Significant'

BK1702130592 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0500 GMT 17 Feb 92

[Editorial from 17 February PASASON: "Long Live the Lao-Vietnamese Friendship and Special Soldiarity"]

[Text] Respected listeners, for three days from 13 to 15 February, Vientiane residents as well as the Lao people throughout the country were very happy and proud to welcome the Vietnamese Government delegation led by Comrade Vo Van Kiet, member of the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] Central Committee [CC] Political Bureau, chairman of the SRV Council of Ministers [CM], and a close friend of the Lao people, which paid an official friendship visit to the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR]. Right after they set foot on Lao soil, the noble and dear visitors were given a wholehearted welcome filled with a sense of friendship, comradeship, and brotherliness by the Lao party-state leaders and multiethnic people.

During its friendship visit to our country, the high-level SRV delegation called on Comrade Khamtai Siphandon, member of the Political Bureau of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party [LPRP] Central Committee and prime minister of the LPDR, at the government guest house; paid a courtesy call on Comrade Kaysone Phomvihan, chairman of the LPRP CC and president of the LPDR at the Presidential Palace; attended a dinner banquet hosted by Prime Minister Khamtai Siphandon in honor of Comrade CM Chairman Vo Van Kiet and his party at the CM club; laid a wreath at the Monument of Unknown Soldiers; held official talks with the LPDR Government delegation; paid a courtesy call on Comrade Nouhak Phoumsavan, member of the LPRP CC Political Bureau and chairman of the Supreme People's Assembly [SPA] at the new reception room of the SPA building; met with Vietnamese cadres and experts; visited the Khounta textile factory; and signed two cooperation agreements for the period from 1992 to 1995 and for 1992 between the LPDR and the SRV.

The visit to Laos by the high-level SRV delegation is extremely significant for the strengthening of the relations of friendship, special solidarity, and comprehensive cooperation between the two countries. At the same time, it also serves to further augment the joint communique signed by the two countries during the official friendship visit to the SRV by Comrade Kaysone Phomvihan, president of the LPDR, in October 1991.

The Lao people are very proud to see that in recent years in which the world situation has been changing in a complex manner, the entire Vietnmamese party and people are united as one to walk along the path they have chosen to overcome all obstacles and to accomplish many important initial achievements in carrying out the tasks of renovation, thus gradually improving their living conditions and serving to firmly consolidate their social stability. The Lao party, Governmnet, and people wholeheartedly hail the great achievements made by the fraternal Vietnamese people and regard them as their own. The Lao people always hold that the Lao-Vietnamese special relations and solidarity which were patiently and carefully built and forged by the great President Ho Chi Minh and have been further strengthened by the parties, governments, and peoples of the two countries must be incessantly developed to bear more fruit. For our part, the Lao party, Government, and people will do our utmost to increase the level of all-round cooperation between Laos and Vietnam to a higher degree, thereby responding to the aspirations and interests of the people in each country and also to bring prosperity and happiness to the two peoples, and contributing to turning Southeast Asia into a region of peace, cooperation, and development.

The SRV Government delegation has concluded its official friendship visit to the LPDR and just left for home. However, the Lao-Vietnamese relations of friendfship and special solidarity will be further strengthened and last forever.

Prime Minister Leaves for Thailand Visit 18 Feb

BK1802130192 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1200 GMT 18 Feb 92

[Text] In response to an invitation of His Excellency [H.E.] Anan Panyarachun, prime minister of the Kingdom of Thailand, H.E. Khamtai Siphandon, prime minister, and a delegation of the Lao Government, left Vientiane this afternoon for an official friendship visit to the Kingdom of Thailand. H.E. Khamtai Siphandon and the delegation will visit the Kingdom of Thailand from 18-21 February. During the visit, his excellency the Lao prime minister will hold talks with head of the Thai Government, H.E. Anan Panyarachun, and will visit major production establishments in Thailand. He will also be granted an audience with His Majesty King Phumiphon Adunyadet of the Kingdom of Thailand at the Phuphing Ratchaniwet Palace in Chiang Mai Province.

Accompanying his excellency the prime minister in the delegation to Thailand on this occasion are H.E. Phoun Sipaseut, [deputy prime minister and] minister of foreign affairs; H.E. Phao Bounnaphon, minister of foreign trade and economic relations; H.E. Somsavat Lengsavat, minister attached to the Prime Minister's Office; H.E. Thongloun Sisoulit, deputy minister of foreign affairs; Souphanthalangsi Sisaleumsak, head of the Protocol Department; Donsom Volakit, acting head of the Second Department of the Foreign Affairs Ministry; Bouason Boupphavali, staff director and secretary to the prime minister; and more than 10 academicians and auxiliary cadres.

His excellency the prime minister and delegation were seen off at the Wattai Airport by H.E. Khamphoui Keoboualapha, deputy prime minister and minister of economics, planning, and finance; H.E. Thongsing Thammavong, vice chairman of the Supreme People's Assembly; and H.E. Oudom Khatthi-gna, governor of Vientiane Municipality; along with a large crowd of high-ranking officials. Phongsak Ditsayathat, Thai charge d'affaires to the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR], was also on hand to see his excellency the prime minister off at the airport on this occasion.

H.E. Prime Minister Khamtai Siphandon and delegation will be welcomed at an official ceremony to be held in the capital, Bangkok, tomorrow morning by H.E. Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun of the Kingdom of Thailand.

Highest Order Confered on DPRK's Kim Chong-il

BK1702092892 Vientiane KPL in English 0904 GMT 17 Feb 92

[Text] Vientiane, February 17 (KPL)—Lao PDR [People's Democratic Republic] President Kaysone Phomvihan has recently signed a state decree on conferment of the Lao PDR highest medal of honor on Kim Chong-il, member of the Political Committee of the party Central Committee [and] secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea Central Committee, supreme commander of the Korean People's Army.

The decision to confer the medal on the DPRK leader was made on his 50th birthday for his important contribution to promoting traditional ties of friendship and cooperation between the parties, governments, and peoples of the two nations, Laos and Korea.

In connection with Kim Chong-il's birthday, the DPRK ambassador to Laos on February 14 evening hosted a reception at Mekong restaurant here.

Among a number of senior Lao Government officials attending the reception was Vice Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Phoun Sipaseut.

On the same day morning, the DPRK ambassador also held at his embassy a press conference on Kim Chong-il's 50th birthday, with a large audience of the Lao mass media.

Philippines

Aquino on U.S. Reaction to Crisis Scenario

HK1802101192 Hong Kong AFP in English 0957 GMT 18 Feb 92

[Excerpt] Manila, Feb 18 (AFP)—President Corazon Aquino said Tuesday that Washington must seek permission before sending U.S. troops to protect American citizens in case of a new coup attempt in the Philippines.

"I do not see the possibility of a coup," Aquino, who survived seven military coup attempts since assuming power in 1986, said in a written reaction to a NEW YORK TIMES report on conflict scenarios envisioned by the Pentagon.

"Certainly, during my incumbency, no foreign power will be invited to send troops to the Philippines, and any attempt to do so without our consent will be opposed," added Aquino, who is to step down in June.

THE TIMES said Monday that the Pentagon was envisioning sending troops here to safeguard the lives of 5,000 American civilians living in the country during any coup attempt mounted by military rebels. [passage omitted]

Issue of Subic Drydocks Still Uncertain

HK1802040792 Manila Far East Broadcasting Company in Tagalog 0100 GMT 0100 GMT 18 Feb 92

[Text] Malacanang is uncertain whether the country will be able to obtain the drydocks at Subic Naval Base. Acting Press Secretary Horacio Paredes said the Americans have not indicated whether they will leave the drydocks behind at the end of the year.

Earlier, President Aquino strongly requested U.S. President Bush to help the Philippines with its plan to develop Subic into a commercial port. The president explained that this would be possible if the port serviced the ships of the United States Navy. [sentence as heard]

Manglapus Proposes Group To Oppose Sea Control

HK1702095692 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 17 Feb 92

[Italicized passage in English]

[Text] Foreign Affairs Secretary Raul Manglapus has proposed to Asian nations forming a group to oppose any superpower that wants to control sea lanes around the Asia-Pacific region. Here is Rey Arquiza of DZRH Unit 21 for details:

[Begin Arquiza recording] Foreign Affairs Secretary Raul Manglapus has proposed that nations around the Asia-Pacific region form a strong group to oppose superpowers in order to prevent the latter controlling the seas around the Asia-Pacific region. Manglapus made the proposal during his welcome address to representatives at the first Hispano-Pacific Conference at the Philippine International Convention Center. Manglapus said that *The water separating the nations in the region should bring them together to form a new territorial frontier that would be contiguous, united, and strong.* Manglapus also said that the two-day conference will discuss problems regarding the UN Law of the Sea Convention specifically the 200-mile exclusive economic zone. The Law of the Sea Convention supports the Archipelagic Doctrine that gives nations exclusive jurisdiction over all inland waters, which is opposed by the United States and other maritime powers. Manglapus added that the seas in the Asia-Pacific region will bring prosperity to Asian nations. The countries attending the conference aside from the Philippines are the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of Palau, Solomon Islands, and the U.S. Territory of Guam and the U.S. Commonwealth of Northern Marianas Islands. Spain has sent a representative identified as Fernando De Quelme.

Meanwhile other countries like the PRC, Japan, Australia, and the [word indistinct] American states of the Pacific Rim have sent their own observers. [end recording]

Mitra on Meeting To Negotiate for Barnes Release

HK1802091592 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 18 Feb 92

[By Cesar Chavez]

[Text] House Speaker Ramon Mitra Jr. today disclosed that he met with some representatives of the underground movement and said that he expects to receive information regarding the location of American executive Michael Barnes. Mitra refused to identify the representatives, who are members of the National Democratic Front [NDF], for security reasons. Earlier, it was reported that Mitra met with the brother of NDF chairman Antonio Zumel. Mitra and Zumel are close friends. It can be recalled that Mitra and Zumel frequently met each other during the 1986 peace talks between the government and the NDF when Mitra was the government negotiator. Mitra strongly believes that he will receive word from the NDF informing him of the exact role of the communist rebels in the Barnes kidnapping within 24 hours, as well as the reason for the crime and the location and condition of the victim. When asked who his contact in the NDF is, Mitra said he is a top official of the underground movement based in Central Luzon.

Company Officials To Be Negotiators

HK1802054792 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 0300 GMT 18 Feb 92

[Text] Top officials of Philippine Geothermal Incorporated [PGI] will directly supervise negotiations with suspected Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army rebels who kidnapped Michael Barnes after government negotiators failed to free him. According to the Philippine National Police, the Los Angeles-based Unocal Corporation, PGI's headquarters, took over the negotiations with the kidnappers because the two-week government deadline to respond to the kidnappers' demand, including the $2 million ransom, has expired. The source did not disclose the names of the PGI officials who will face the kidnappers for their own safety.

NPA Said Offering Safe Conduct Passes

Laurel Camp Denies Payment Made

HK1802040992 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 17 Feb 92

[Text] Vice President Salvador Laurel's camp has vehemently denied reports claiming he has paid a huge sum to the Communist Party of the Philippines in Quezon Province. Laurel's spokesman Ike Guttierrez said the vice president continues to coordinate with leaders of the Philippine National Police to identify measures which will give protection to candidates wishing to enter New People's Army infested areas. Earlier, Comrade Gregorio Rosal of the Melito Glor Command, said presidential candidate Laurel paid his group a huge sum for a safe conduct pass which will enable him to freely campaign in Quezon province and nearby areas.

Mitra Claims No Need

HK1802100092 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 18 Feb 92

[Excerpt] House Speaker and Struggle of the Filipino Democrats presidential candidate Ramon Mitra Jr. has said that he does not need a safe conduct pass from the New People's Army [NPA] in order to campaign in areas controlled by them. In an interview, Mitra said he has been living for a long time in Southern Tagalog and that he has a copra buying station in that region. He further said that he knows the people in the area well, which is reported to be under NPA control. [passage omitted]

Cardinal Sin Endorses Mitra; Aquino 'Surprised'

HK1802084692 Manila DZXL Radio Mindanao Network in Tagalog 0700 GMT 18 Feb 92

[By Rowena Papasin]

[Text] President Corazon Aquino was surprised and offended after learning that Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin has endorsed the candidacy of House Speaker Ramon Mitra Jr. for the country's presidency. In today's ambush interview by Malacanang reporters, President Aquino said Cardinal Sin promised he will not endorse any candidate, which is why she was surprised when she learned that the cardinal has chosen House Speaker Mitra as the country's next president.

Sin said in an interview that the country needs a healing president who can unite the people, not a president who advocates squabbling, which, according to Sin, has delayed the country's progress. He particularly cited the bickering by the different factions of society. Sin said the country needs Mitra because he is a true politician who, he said, the Philippines needs now. He added that President Aquino does not listen to good advice, criticising her request to the Philippine Military Academy graduates to remain neutral in the coming elections. Sin asked: How can President Aquino ask this when she herself is not neutral?

In view of this, Mrs. Aquino said she will not comment on Sin's statement. Here is part of the ambush interview with President Aquino regarding Cardinal Sin's statement:

[Begin recording in English] [Reporter] Ma'am, what can you say about Cardinal Sin endorsing Mitra?

[Aquino] Well, he told me before he will not endorse anybody. [end recording]

Abadia Calls for Communist Party Candidates

HK1802050992 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 0300 GMT 18 Feb 92

[Text] Field commanders of the Armed Forces of the Philippines [AFP] have been alerted against candidates supported by the Communist Party of the Philippines [CPP]. At the same time, they were ordered to disclose the identities of the candidates supported by the rebels for the information of voters. General Lisandro Abadia, AFP chief of staff, said the military accepts the CPP's participation in the election, but the Armed Forces has to monitor the violence and intervention perpetrated by the communist rebels. According to Abadia, the CPP and its armed unit, the New People's Party, are free to field their own candidates in the national and local elections on 11 may.

Aquino Belittles Rightist Rebels' Coup Warning

HK1802011092 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 17 Feb 92

[Text] President Aquino has belittled warnings by rebel soldiers of a possible coup d'etat in case no one replaces her on 30 June. In a statement, President Aquino said it is futile to threaten the people with a military take over, when the Commission on Elections has continuously assured that a clean, peaceful, and orderly election will take place on 11 May. However, two retired generals, who are running for senators, have given attention to the warning of the rightist rebels. General Rodolfo Biazon, former Armed Forces chief of staff, and former Brigadier General Felix Brawner did not discount the possibility of the rebel soldiers' overthrowing the government if the 11 may elections become dirty.

Thailand

Source Says U.S. Unhappy With Labor Rights

BK1502121792 Bangkok SIAM RAT in Thai
8 Feb 92 pp 7,8

[Text] A source at the Commerce Ministry said the United States will consider the removal of GSP [Generalized System of Preferences] privileges for Thailand in March. This is when a meeting of the GSP committee, comprising officials from the Trade, Labor, and State Departments, and the USTR [United States Trade Representative], is scheduled to be held. This follows a complaint by the U.S. labor association which has requested its government to review Thailand's GSP privileges because of existing labor rights violations and the enactment of bills to curb workers' rights. The decision would take effect on 1 July, the beginning the GSP year.

On products to be affected by the GSP cut, the source said it is believed the United States would take into account the amount of exports and the GSP rate enjoyed by the goods. Anyway, if the U.S. chooses to sanction Thailand over the labor rights issue, it is believed the cut would be aimed at exports that are presently enjoying the largest benefits.

Concerning the State Enterprise Labor Relations Act and some other announcements of the National Peacekeeping Council [NPKC], such as NPKC Announcement No. 54, which were the cause of U.S. concern that the establishment of labor unions has been banned under the new regulations, Thailand has explained to the U.S. that the new acts cannot be blamed for the reduction of labor rights. Under the new State Enterprise Labor Relations Act, workers are entitled to form an association starting with only 30 members. A group of 10 workers can already apply to set up a labor association.

The same source added that Thailand told the U.S. that the new State Enterprise Labor Relations Act could not be said to have deprived the workers' rights to strike since the clause already exists in the former act. The new act therefore could not be described as curbing workers' rights. The source said the U.S. was still not happy with Thailand's explanation, and also with Thailand's failure to explain about the mysterious disappearance of a labor leader, Thanong Pho-an.

Over the past three to four years, the Thai Government has passed 12 bills aimed at giving protection to Thai workers. This includes the Social Security Act and the Amendment to the Child Labor law.

Minister Calls on U.S., EC To Solve Deadlock

BK1802015592 Bangkok THE NATION in English
18 Feb 92 pp B1, 14

[Text] Commerce Minister Amaret Sila-on has called on major economic powers, apparently the United States and the European Community, to stop "finger-pointing" at each other for the snail-paced progress in multilateral trade talks, and instead match rhetoric with action.

He challenged Brussels—which has tried to brush aside the notion that the Community was responsible for the year-long stalemate in the Uruguay Round of multilateral talks under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT)—to push for the conclusion of the Round by adopting the compromise proposal tabled last December by GATT director-general Arthur Dunkel.

"The time for pointing fingers at one another is over. The time has come for us to do something," Amaret told visiting French Foreign Trade Minister Jean-Noel Jeanneney, after the French counterpart had charged Washington with "commandeering" the negotiations to further its own interests.

Disagreement over how the massive farm subsidies provided by national governments to their farmers, particularly in developed countries, should be reduced has halted the whole process of negotiation which should have been concluded at the end of 1990.

During a lively discussion at a working breakfast yesterday morning, Amaret echoed the ASEAN stand point that the so-called Dunkel paper was the "only rallying point for action, as far as I can see" to rescue the stalled Uruguay Round.

The discussion was held in the presence of members of the Franco-Thai Chamber of Commerce, hosts of the meeting, and a group of local and foreign journalists.

Amaret called on the Community, which has rejected the text outright, to accept it as a "reasonable basis" for concluding the ambitious negotiations, aimed at liberalizing trade in goods and services worldwide.

He admitted, however, that Thailand had "not fallen in love with it (the text)" because the section on agriculture fell "far short of our public expectation".

"But for want of a better text we have made public our support to the text as a reasonable basis for the final stage of serious negotiations," Amaret told his counterpart.

The French minister, however, reiterated his country's viewpoint, which he said was generally shared by the 12 member states, that Dunkel's proposal was "fundamentally imbalanced, notably with respect to agriculture", and heavily favoured the US position.

Rhetoric aside, Amaret said, "what we need desperately now is action—real down to earth negotiations", otherwise Thai rice exports to the EC would continue to fall prey to such "foolish" farm support policies.

Thai rice, which is exported at Bt10 [baht] a kilo FOB [Free on Board], faces a levy of over Bt20 a kilo or close to 200 percent duty when it enters the European Community.

This vivid example, though not intended as finger-pointing, was in sharp contrast to the French minister's claim that Europe was not protectionist. But Jeanneney was obviously unable to shrug it off when asked for comments on the case.

Turning to bitter accusations between the US and the Community, particularly France, over the failure of the GATT talks, Jeanneney said the EC had made many concessions but "unfortunately, our partners—and I'll point first to the United States—have made but few".

"I will even go so far as to say that by making agriculture its one matter of concern, the United States has in a way commandeered the negotiation, which allows them to practically stand pat on the other topics."

"We denounce this blackmail," said the French minister.

Describing Dunkel's text as "fundamentally imbalanced", Jeanneney posed the query, "why should we accept commitments which would be binding on us alone—such as reducing exports—while the US should suffer no constraints".

Moreover, the Community would not, he added, accept a bad agreement to meet the deadline of the US electoral timetable.

Many participating countries in the Uruguay Round have expressed hope that the multilateral trade talks should end before June to prevent the US presidential election's and the possible running-in period of a new administration's delaying negotiations further.

"I am convinced that the negotiations cannot be successful as long as they don't reach global and balanced results. Concessions should also be balanced out between all participants," he stressed.

Minister Asks for French Trade Assistance

BK1802020592 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 18 Feb 92 p 22

[Text] Commerce Minister Amaret Sila-on yesterday urged French business to help reduce Thailand's dependence on machinery imports from Japan and suggested that proposed investment subsidies from Paris could help.

Initially, machinery could be imported from France, but ultimately joint-venture investment could produce low- and medium-tech machinery in Thailand, he told visiting French foreign trade minister Jean-Noel Jeanneney and the Franco-Thai Chamber of Commerce.

"With the French flair for inventiveness and the Thai workers' discipline and work ethics, as well as our entrepreneurs' adventurous spirit, I believe we have a formula for success," Mr Amaret said at a breakfast meeting at the Oriental Hotel.

Ironically, the other principal guest had landed himself in trouble for suggesting just such an idea to the Vietnamese shortly before making his stopover visit to Thailand.

Mr Jeanneney's recommendation to Mr Vo Van Kiet that the Vietnamese should diversify their trade in order to avoid Japanese domination has been interpreted as further reflection of French anti-Japanese sentiment.

Questioned about his statements yesterday, Mr Jeanneney said he was not being anti-Japanese. He was merely suggesting that the Vietnamese also look to the Europeans and French in order to be economically and psychologically freer, he said.

Commenting on the low level of trade and investment flows between France and Thailand, Mr Jeanneney cited tyre maker Michelin, electrical goods manufacturer Thomson and oil company Total as examples showing that French investment in Thailand is growing fast and becoming more diversified.

The French government is studying "the set up of new, subsidised lines of investment intended to promote investment and Franco-Thai partnership," he said. "This procedure will be devised so as to be within the reach of medium sized companies for which installation in Thailand implies a large financial effort," he added.

The embassy in Bangkok is also seeking to expand economic ties and a French expert on industrial cooperation is now assisting the Thai Board of Investment, he noted.

Mr Amaret pointed out that in Thailand's case, the major cause of years of "huge" trade deficits has been "the ever-increasing import of machinery, principally from Japan."

Japan is Thailand's major trading partner and accounts for 80 percent of Thailand's worldwide trade deficit, he noted.

"Any responsible government would be failing in its duty if it did not try to lessen this over-dependence on a sigle source of supply.

"I naturally look forward to the Europeans and particularly to France to provide worthy alternatives to the Japanese machinery," Mr Amaret said.

The Thai minister suggested joint ventures could even be assisted by the proposed French investment subsidies.

"France ranks a dismal 11th as Thailand's trading partner," Mr Amaret said. "It would not be too difficult to widen and deepen trade relations between our two countries."

He held out the prospect of the ASEAN Free Trade Area [AFTA], agreed last month at the ASEAN Summit, as a market of 350 million people that will be attractive to investors. And he assured his listeners that Thailand will press on with liberalisation ahead of the AFTA schedule.

Mr Amaret also noted that apprehension about the European Community's single market, due to be completed by the end of this year, has generally subsided.

"We realise that in many areas it will be more difficult to get into the European market due to the complicated technical standards. But once that hurdle is overcome the potential of the market is almost unlimited with the free flow of goods among the member states," Mr Amaret said.

Austria Trade 'Growing Steadily'; Group To Visit

BK1702044092 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 17 Feb 92 p 17

[Text] Trade between Thailand and Austria is growing steadily, with the volume having reached about 6.5 billion baht last year.

Thailand's exports to Austria increased 16.8 percent to 2.7 million baht in the first 11 months of 1991, while imports from Austria reached 3.3 billion baht, an increase of 64.7 percent according to the Office of the Commerical Counsellor at the Austrian Embassy in Bangkok.

To establish new contacts or renew old ones in the Thai business community, an Austrian trade mission with 32 members representing 24 Austrian companies will visit Bangkok from February 19-23.

The mission will be led by Wolfgang G Mayerhofer, head of the South Asian Desk of the Department of Trade Policy and Foreign Trade of the Austrian Federal Economic Chamber in Vienna.

The Austrian companies cover the following fields: hazardous waste management; communications equipment; metal belts for coveying and material processing purposes; electric engineering in the field of electric energy technology; CNC-[expansion unknown] controlled machinery; tailor-made special bodies for lorries, trailers and semi-trailers; a machine for the manufacture of disposable ECG [expansion unknown] electrodes; accessories for the textile industry; aluminium producs; flexible packaging materials; round enameled winding wires of copper and aluminium; wire enameling lines; paper; a windshield repair system and transporting equipment; machinery for processing textiles and plastics; tractors; planning and implementation of hospitals and related medical care products; as well as iron and steel making technologies.

Companies interested in establishing contact with trade-mission participants are welcome to contact the embassy.

Foreign Minister on Illegal Treasure-Hunting Ship

BK1602053692 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 0000 GMT 16 Feb 92

[Text] Recently, a treasure-hunting vessel Australia Tide illegally gathered sunken ancient artifacts in the Gulf of Thailand. The Thai authorities retrieved the salvaged ancient artifacts before allowing the vessel free passage from Thai waters.

The ship Australia Tide has reportedly returned to its country and has launched a verbal attack against Thailand for the seizure of such ancient artifacts by Thai authorities. Furthermore, Australia reportedly will file a lawsuit against Thailand to make Thailand return all the ancient artifacts to the Australian vessel.

Responding to this, Thai Foreign Minister Asa Sarasin said that the Thai authorities have performed their duties appropriately, because, in accordance with the map, the area that the Australia Tide vessel entered to take the porcelain artifacts from the seabed is in Thailand's exclusive economic zone. According to the international laws, the minister said, Thailand has a right to protect the ancient artifacts discovered in such a zone although Thailand may not own the objects. We have sufficient reasons to fight against a lawsuit, if it exists, Asa said.

As Australian mass media have launched criticism against Thailand, describing the Thai action as an act of piracy, the Thai foreign minister said we want to oppose the Australian move. The issue requires both sides to deal with each other in accordance with reasons and principle of laws, Asa pointed out.

Navy Chief of Staff Admiral Surawut Maharom said that the investigation on who was involved in persuading and helping the Australia Tide vessel to salvage the sunken artifacts in the Gulf of Thailand was still under way. For the time being, no conclusion has been made as to who is involved in the incident. Officials are gathering various pieces of evidence and witnesses before handing them over to government authorities and agencies concerned for further action.

To prevent other ships from repeating the feat of the Australia Tide, the Naval operation fleets in both Region One and Region Two have been instructed to take intensive care of the said area in the Gulf of Thailand. Therefore, no one is expected to hunt for the ancient artifacts in the area, concluded the Naval chief of staff.

Fisheries Cooperation With Iran Set To Increase

BK1702043892 Bangkok THE NATION in English 17 Feb 92 p B8

[Text] Thailand and the Islamic Republic of Iran have agreed to invest in fisheries, exchange aquaculture information and develop mutually beneficial training programmes, Deputy Agriculture Minister At Tolanon said.

The agreement came during a meeting last week between At and Rasul Lahijanian, deputy minister of Tihade-c-Sazancligi [names as published] and Iran Fishery Co's managing director.

Both countries are members of the Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia and Pacific (NACA). Thailand is home to a NACA office.

Under the agreement, the Thai private sector will invest in fisheries in Iran, whose waters are rich in yellowfin and script-jack tuna. Shrimp farming is also envisaged.

Iran has sought Thai assistance in producing the targeted 730,000 tonnes of fishery products for its five-year fishery plan launched in 1989. During the last three years, the country produced only 300,000 tonnes but the figure is still a vast improvement over the previous output of 30,000 tonnes annually.

Iran hoped to produce 150,000 tonnes of shrimp under the same plan but has thus far managed only 50,000 tonnes.

Charoen Pokphan (CP) Group of companies, a leading shrimp farming concern in Thailand, has shown interest in shrimp farming in Iran and sent a survey team there.

Iranian officials are scheduled to attend courses provided by the Thai Fisheries Department and Kasetsat University.

At said the Fisheries Department will be responsible for further negotiations in the cooperative venture.

The cooperation follows an agreement between the commerce ministers of the two countries last October to jointly invest in shrimp farming, fishery businesses, feed mills and product processing.

Aside from Iran, Mozambique also feels that Thailand offers solid potential to operate fishing, forestry and tourism businesses in the African country. Mozambique Prime Minister Mario Fernandez da Graca made this observation during a visit to the CP feed mill in Samut Sakhon.

Joint Malaysian Commission Reaches Agreements

BK1602150392 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 1200 GMT 16 Feb 92

[Announcer-read report by Charoenchai Piamphoemphun, Thai Public Relations Department correspondent]

[Text] The fifth meeting of the Thai-Malaysian Joint Commission concluded at 1600 local time today at the Sheraton Hotel in Langkawi. A memorandum on the meeting stating that several issues were discussed during the meeting was signed. Problems which were once the cause of contention have been cleared up. Both sides have reached an understanding on mutual problems, including the settlement of the problem of border markers. The meeting agreed to create a committee to review border cooperation with a view to settling all kinds of problems along the Thai-Malaysian border.

Malaysia has given approval for the transit of goods from Thailand into Singapore via Malaysia. Malaysia meanwhile asked Thailand to scrap air transport duties on goods from Thailand to Malaysia. On the frequent arrests of Thai fishing trawlers in Malaysian waters, Malaysia agreed to give fishing crews 48 more hours before being sent to court, so that they could report these incidents to Thai authorities. Malaysia said it would amend the law to this effect.

Malaysia was informed about Thailand's introduction of the value added tax system. Both sides also reviewed bilateral cooperation in various areas. Concerning the problem of television signals, they agreed to create a technical committee to study and resolve the problem.

The just-ended meeting is considered very successful for cooperation between Thailand and Malaysia. The Thai and Malaysian foreign ministers will meet tomorrow morning to observe the Thai-Malaysian border markers in Padang Besar which presently constitute a cause of misunderstanding.

Finance Minister's Visit to Cambodia Reported

BK1802054492 Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in English 1500 GMT 17 Feb 92

[Text] Thailand's Minister of Finance Suthi Singsane met senior Cambodian officials on a three-day visit to Phnom Penh, a Finance Ministry official said Monday [17 Feb].

Suthi, who went to Cambodia Friday and returned on Sunday, was accompanied by senior officials from Thailand's privately-owned Siam Commercial Bank.

The Thai delegation met Phnom Penh's Finance Minister Chhay Than, as well as the director of the Cambodian National Bank, Cha Rieng.

The Siam Commercial Bank became the first foreign bank to operate in Cambodia for many years when it established a joint venture with the Cambodian National Bank last July.

Deputy Agriculture Minister Interviewed

BK1402013392 Bangkok THE NATION in English 14 Feb 92 p B3

[Interview with Deputy Agriculture Minister At Taolanon by Aphisak Thanasettakon "last week"; place not given]

[Text] [Aphisak] How do you view the country's agricultural sector at a time when radical changes are taking place world wide?

[Taolanon] Even before I assumed office, I believed it's time for changes although at that juncture the establishment of an Asean Free Trade Area (Afta) had not been discussed at all.

Two dominant issues were confronting our agriculural sector then: the market integration of the European Community and the Uruguay round of multilateral trade talks. Even without Afta, the Thai farm sector would still have to undergo transformations. Competition from developed countries which are major farm exporters has forced us to initiate reform measures.

We cannot just simply close our eyes to what has happened around the world. External factors will have an increasing influence over our farm policies. Our ministry needs long-term development strategies, a longer one than the five-year national development plan. Five years for agriculture mean almost nothing. We are talking about development plans over 10 or 15 years.

Personally, I feel that two issues deserve utmost attention now. We should look at the external factors affecting our agricultural sector with deeper understanding. The formation of several regional trade blocs in North America, Latin America, Europe, Asia and the Pacific are in process and we have to look at them in terms of their implications for our major economic sectors.

A good external farm policy as important as the domestic one [sentence as published]. Otherwise, the government would have to control prices and intervene in the market every time domestic prices slump and farmers rally.

The world trade negotiations under the auspices of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (Gatt) is the most decisive factor that will shape our agriculture in the next ten years.

I'm optimistic that we will be able to reach a compromise agreement now that the leaders of industrial countries who have collided head-on over how farm subsidies should be cut have realized the adverse effects the failure of Gatt would bring. There is a political will on part of every country participating in the Gatt talks.

The emergence of free trade areas in Europe, North America and within Asean itself is, though, not a new trend. The market integration is accelerating. The single European Market will definitely become a reality, and its impact on our economy would be immense.

The formation of the North America Free Trade Area (Nafta) between the United States and Canada would not have been worrying had Mexico not been integrated into it. But when the zone of operation was extended to include Mexico, the risk of losing our comparative advantage to the Latin American country began to mount. Our competitive edge is identical with Mexico's. We offer cheap labour and natural resources to foreign investors, something Mexico can offer, possibly on better terms.

Secondly, farm production cannot be considered in isolation anymore. We need to link production, marketing, research and development, and trade negotiations for market access and dispute settlement.

When I was first appointed as deputy minister, I said I wanted to see a new dimension of agriculture and that's what I have meant to.

[Aphisak] Apart from long term strategies, what else should the Agriculture Ministry have done to strengthen the farm sector?

[Taolanon] It is indisputable that our farm sector has been competitive and will continue to be so for years to come. The problem, therefore, does not lie with farmers nor with the private sector. They can perform well. The problem is with us in the public sector. The Commerce, Agriculture, and Finance ministries need to cooperate more to ensure that conflicting policies are not approved nor implemented.

The Agriculture Ministry, in particular, must be more active in the pricing of farm commodities. Above all, the ministry needs a major restructuring to cope with the evolving agricultural sector which has transformed itself from producing primary commodities to processing and export.

Pressure of industrialization is increasingly felt in the farm sector. On-farm labour is shrinking; only efficient farms can survive. With this trend becoming visible, the government agencies have to readjust their role in responding to the farm sector.

We always take for granted that several ministries handing the different aspects of the farm sector can coordinate among themselves. In fact, we hardly cooperate and conflicts often arise as a result.

I want to see the government create a structure in which things are connected to facilitate the development of the specific sectors identified as target products or industries.

For instance, if we want to develop the dairy farming industry, we should look at dairy products as the main commodity and try to remove constraints, if any, in all related areas—may they be animal feed, breeding of milk cows, processing, storage, and distribution of milk and its consumption.

[Aphisak] It seems that this objective was embodied in the aborted National Agricultural Council. The plan is unlikely to get off during this government largely because some critics consider the plan as favouring large agribusiness. Though they did not name names, it was apparently in reference to CP. [Charoen Pokphan group].

[Taolanon] Yes, we used to discuss the cooperation of government agencies in the proposed council. I don't know for sure why the plan did not get off. Maybe because of its name which somebody might dislike. Or maybe because of myself whom so many people might distrust. They, therefore, considered the council as a matter of influence and interest, an understanding which was absolutely wrong.

The council was proposed as a consultative forum where farmers, producers, consumers and responsible government agencies would discuss broad as well as specific policies of common interest.

But unfortunately, nobody realized its importance. Still, the Agriculture Ministry has managed to set up separate committees on dairy products, chicken, cattle, and pineapples which practically work well. It is a proof that when we are determined to do things together, we can.

In the past, we had done little networking but I believe subsequent governments would have to look at this aspect seriously. External economic and political factors would force them to do so.

I hope that my successor would dust off the council and modify it to suit the circumstances at that time. Now the differences run too deep to reconcile. Some people wanted the council to be powerful; others suggested that it be flexible and strictly consultative. This will be left to the next government to decide.

[Aphisak] One of the objectives of the council was to assist small farmers who have so far been neglected so that they could speak up. How can we deal with them now that drastic changes internally and externally hit them hard?

[Taolanon] We definitely have to liberalize our market and cut back protection in all economic sectors. Agriculture is no exception. But this does not mean that I do not sympathize with small farmers. But there are a large number of them who will perform even better amid free trade.

At the same time we have to bear in mind that the number of farmers has declined steadily over the years to slightly over 60 percent of the total workforce now. By 2001, the proportion of manpower in agricultural would drop to only 40 percent.

The Agriculture Ministry had devised plans to assist both groups of people, a strategy both correct and wise. On the one hand, we will try to help farmers who are competitive to enter into processing or form alliance with business to add value to raw commodities. On the other hand, we will take care of those still struggling in the farm sector but will definitely have to improve competitiveness and join the former. In the process of adjustment we have to help them.

We can no longer rely on raw commodities because the markets for them are dwindling. Our neighbours who are racing to undertake reforms to improve their ailing economies will soon replace us as more competitive suppliers of farm commodities. We are in a better shape now and we can take a step forward to produce sophisticated value-added products.

In this process, the government must be prepared to train and re-train their people so as to prepare them for rapidly changing economic environment. I think we will repeat what Denmark has already experienced. The country has sacrificed the production of grain which could not compete with its neighbours in the European Community and concentrated on dairy farming. We will have to find a niche for ourselves as well.

[Aphisak] Is the fishery industry the niche you just mentioned?

[Taolanon] We have to admit that we maintain a fishing fleet which far exceed our natural endowment and its ability to replenish. That's why our trawlers are trying to secure licenses from neighbouring countries to fish there. But we have to look at such cooperation as a mutually-beneficial exercise. Nobody wants to give anything for free, particularly if something is dear to them.

I feel that if our fleet is too large and disorganized, we will have to organize them first and set order. In the near future, I think Thailnd will need to have a sort of national fishing company which has the flagships, supporting trawlers and floating terminals and offshore processing plants. If we can reach that stage, it will be within our reach to do deep-sea fishing. Then we would not have to worry about coastal fishing in neighbouring countries.

[Aphisak] It was the postponement of the signing of the fishing accord with Vietnam that you were again alleged to have been behind for the benefit of CP. To some people, you and CP are inseparable.

[Taolanon] I want to stress here again that I am not an agricultural-economist. What I learn about agriculture comes from hard work at CP. CP is not a company that has business in Thailand only. It has a worldwide network, I would say. This enabled me to have global perspective of international business. If this is the key to the success of CP, why don't we learn from it.

I am not in the Cabinet for personal wealth or fame. I don't think CP wants anything from me. It's already fullfledged. But it seems that nobody believes me. What I always have in mind is that if my experience can serve the country, I will do it the best I can.

Maybe my thinking is different from others and that's my weakness. People think that simply trying something different means that I was serving CP. No doubt, this affects my morale. It's a pity. Just distrust can ruin so much.

It'd be better if people judge me from my policies and their consequences. I want to stress here that what I do is motivated by my determination to develop the country's agriculture.

I'm a small man by any standard. That is indisputable. Similarly, I used to be a CP man and that's indisputable as well. I learnt a lot from this aggressive organization. But judge me from what I did. I cannot change my background.

[Aphisak] Will you return to CP once your term as the deputy minister ends?

Wait until March 22, the election day. Now I still have time to think things over.

Vietnam

U.S. Emissary Vessey Interviewed During Visit

BK1402153792 Hanoi VNA in English 1506 GMT 14 Feb 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA Feb. 14—Five years is a long time, we started out from a base of very little cooperation and great deal of misunderstanding about each other. But we have worked, both sides, the U.S. and Vietnam, willingly and cooperatively to help resolve the humanitarian issues of concern to each other.

This was stated by U.S. Presidential Emissary General J. Vessey, in his interview with World Affairs Review during his recent trip to Vietnam.

He went on: "It has not been easy, each side, I think, has believed that the other side could move faster than it is moving. But we have to continue to work. And cooperation has gone steadily over the five years. It continues to go.

At this trip we have agreed to take some specific steps for the future. We agreed to continue investigation about the missings [missing in action], we agreed to have a meeting soon, in February, about Vietnam humanitarian concerns. I have been given an important document about missing Americans which I will take back. We have across with me a group of experts who are now in charge of the archives part of the war. They have been introduced to Vietnamese counterparts and they spend the morning working on the specific issues. And I've just discussed the progress of this meeting with the officer in charge. And he's very pleased with the meeting. He sees that there is large amount of work to be done. He's ready to do the work and believes that the Vietnamese counterpart is ready to do the work too. I've met the minister of defense. It's my first meeting with the minister of defence. We had a good, frank discussion. There are some areas that need some more work for understanding. So it was a good working meeting. But we didn't solve all the problems that we have.

The message that I would have for your readers is that the president of the United States has to move ahead to normalize the relationship with Vietnam. It's clear. He also has to act to his own citizens, voters and Congress, many of whom think that there is something that Vietnam could do to help resolve the issue. At the same time we understand Vietnam's position, which is that Vietnam has done the last [as received] and America has not moved very far and we hope that America will move. So, I think, we both have to understand each other's position and have the political will and courage to move ahead."

PRC, SRV Foreign Ministers Hold News Conference

BK1402115992 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 14 Feb 92

[Report on a news conference jointly held by Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam and Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen, in Hanoi on 14 February—read by announcer]

[Text] On the morning of 14 February, Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam and PRC State Council Member and Foreign Minister Qian Qichen, now on an official visit to Vietnam, held a news conference.

Attending were a large number of representatives of various Vietnamese and foreign mass news media organs and press attaches of various foreign embassies in Hanoi.

At the news conference, Minister Nguyen Manh Cam said: This is the first official visit of a Chinese foreign minister to Vietnam, taking place three months after a high-level meeting between Vietnam and China.

Foreign Ministers Qian Qichen and Nguyen Manh Cam held various working sessions to review those works already done after the high-level meeting, and set forth measures aimed at promoting increasingly improving relations between the two countries. All of the exchanges of views between the two foreign ministers produced good results as desired.

Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam informed newsmen that Chinese Foreign Minister Li Peng would pay an official visit to Vietnam sometime in the last six months of 1992.

Foreign Minster Qian Qichen expressed his pleasure at meeting the Vietnamese and foreign newsmen on this occasion and thanked Minister Nguyen Manh Cam for having accorded an amiable and warm welcome to his delegation.

Foreign Minister Qian Qichen said that in his trip to Vietnam, China and Vietnam had signed two agreements: one on economic cooperation between the two governments, and one on visa exemptions for citizens between the two countries. China and Vietnam also agreed to sign, in the coming period, agreements on postal services, civil aviation, and sea and rail transport, and at the same time, to prepare for the signing of agreements on the protection of investment and on the avoidance of double taxation. Also within this year, China and Vietnam will establish their general consulates in their respective countries.

The Chinese foreign minister clearly pointed out that during talks with his Vietnamese counterpart, the two sides exchanged views on a number of regional and international issues. The Vietnamese side as well as the Chinese side shared indentical or similar views on the above issues.

Foreign Minister Qian Qichen emphatically said: We are very pleased with this visit to Vietnam.

Answering a question raised by a REUTERS correspondent on whether the agreement on visa exemption reached between the two countries means that from now on citizens between the two countries will be able to travel freely, Foreign Minister Qian Qichen said: This agreement will only give visa exemptions to those carrying diplomatic and official passports. Ordinary people will continue to need visas.

To a question by a correspondent whether the two foreign ministers mentioned the issues regarding their border, territories, and nationals in this meeting, the Chinese foreign minister said: There remain some residual issues between China and Vietnam. At a high-level Sino-Vietnamese meeting, the two sides agreed that when conditions permit, they will solve these issues through friendly negotiations.

At the meeting this time, the two sides agreed to set up a team of experts belonging to the two countries to continue to study, examine, and resolve those residual issues. The two sides will strive to refrain from further complicating these pending issues.

The two ministers also answered other questions related to the bilateral relations.

Ministers Sign Agreements

BK1402150592 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 14 Feb 92

[Text] Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam and Chinese State Council Member and Foreign Minister Qian Qichen, respectively representing the governments of Vietnam and the PRC, signed at the Government Guest House on the morning of 14 February an agreement on economic cooperation and another agreement on visa exemptions for citizens of the two countries.

Attending the signing ceremony on the Vietnamese side were: Council of Ministers Nguyen Khanh; Deputy Foreign Minister Vu Khoan; Deputy Head of the Party Central Committee's Foreign Relations Committee Trinh Ngoc Thai; SRV Ambassador to China Dang Nghiem Hoanh; representatives of the Council of Ministers, the Ministry of Commerce and Trade, the Ministry of Communications and Transportation, the State Planning Commission, the Ministry of Light Industry; and a number of high-ranking officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. On the Chinese side were PRC Ambassador Plenipotentiary and Extraordinary Zhang Dewei to Vietnam and other members of the Chinese delegation.

Qian Qichen Departs for Ho Chi Minh City

BK1402130792 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 14 Feb 92

[Text] This morning, 14 February, Qian Qichen, member of the State Council and foreign minister of the People's Republic of China and his entourage left Hanoi for a visit to Ho Chi Minh City. Seeing the Chinese Foreign Minister off at the government guest house were Nguyen Manh Cam, Vietnamese foreign minister; Trinh Ngoc Thai, deputy head of the party Central Committee Foreign Relations Department; and high-ranking officials of the Foreign Ministry.

Accompanying the Chinese Foreign Minister to Ho Chi Minh City were Vu Khoan, Vietnamese deputy foreign minister; Dang Nghiem Hoanh, Vietnamese ambassador to the People's Republic of China; and Zhang Dewei, Chinese ambassador to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

Received by Do Muoi

BK1402163292 Hanoi VNA in English 1602 GMT 14 Feb 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA Feb. 14—Do Muoi, general secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam (CPV) Central Committee, who is making a working tour of southern provinces, received in Ho Chi Minh City today Qian Qichen, member of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, member of the State Council and foreign minister of China, now on an official visit to Vietnam.

The Vietnamese leader warmly welcomed the Chinese foreign minister's first official visit to Vietnam as a new step of development in the relationship between the two countries which has been officially normalized since the Vietnamese-Chinese summit held in Beijing in November 1991. He expressed his joy at the new development of the friendly and cooperative relations between the two countries in the recent period and his firm belief that with efforts made by both sides, the relations would be further developed in the interests of the Vietnamese and Chinese peoples as well as of peace and cooperation in the region and the world.

General Secretary Do Muoi asked Foreign Minister Qian Qichen to convey his warmest greetings and best wishes to Jiang Zemin, general secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, and other Chinese leaders.

For his part, the Chinese foreign minister conveyed General Secretary Jiang Zemin's and other Chinese leaders' warm greetings to General Secretary Do Muoi, wishing the Vietnamese people new achievements in their renovation process. He expressed his joy at the fine results of the visit and the agreements reached, which he considered a new contribution to the friendship and cooperation between the two countries in the new stage. He reaffirmed that China would do its best to further consolidate and develop the Vietnamese Chinese relationship. The reception took place in an atmosphere of friendship.

Present at the reception were Vo Khoan, member of the CPV Central Committee and vice foreign minister, Vietnamese Ambassador to China Dang Nghiem Hoanh and Chinese Ambassador to Vietnam Zhang Dewei.

Also today, Nguyen Van Linh, advisor to the party central committee, received in Ho Chi Minh City Foreign Minister Qian Qichen and his party.

Further Results on Visit

BK1702091092 Hanoi VNA in English 0633 GMT 17 Feb 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA Feb. 17—Under the title "New Advance of Sino-Vietnamese Relations", NHAN DAN today says that the results of the official Vietnam visit by Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen are of important significance and will help further broaden the bilateral relations in the interests of the two peoples who are bound by a time-honoured traditional friendship. The visit, the paper says, benefits peace, national independence, cooperation and development in the region and in the world as well.

The paper goes on:

"Together with friendly contacts and bustling trade operations along the Sino-Vietnamese border since the normaliation of relations between the two countries, especially since early this year, the results of the visit have further strengthened our confidence that with efforts from both sides, the Sino-Vietnamese relations will blossom".

For part, QUAN DOI NHAN DAN says:

"Vietnam and China are two neighbours sharing mountains and rivers. The two peoples and governments have entertained traditional friendship of long date, and supported and assisted each other in their national liberation and construction. Today, the two countries have many things in common and conditions to cooperate for mutual benefits. The Sino-Vietnamese relations have favourable conditions to develop especially in the economic domain.

The fine results of the official visit by Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen show the steady process toward complete normalisation of relations between Vietnam and China, which will not only meet the aspiration of the two peoples and stimulate Vietnam's policy of renovation and broadening international cooperation and China's reform and open-door policy, but also actively contribute to peace, stability, cooperation and development in the region and the world as a whole.

French Trade Minister Holds News Conference

BK1402160992 Hanoi VNA in English 1450 GMT 14 Feb 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA Feb. 14—"France wishes to maintain special relations with Vietnam and play the role of a springboard linking Vietnam with the European Community" said Jean-Noel Jeannenney, foreign trade minister, at a press conference in Hanoi on February 13.

Mr. Jeannenney stressed: "My visit to Vietnam, which takes place a few weeks after that of Foreign Minister Roland Dumas, is the continuation of the French diplomacy aimed at enhancing the relations of cooperation with Vietnam."

"One of the reasons which make us accelerate the rhythm of cooperation", he went on "is the open-door policy of the Vietnamese Government. Vietnam has made the right choice. Moreover, peace has returned in this region. The Cambodian issue has been solved to which, you know, France has made a considerable contribution. He continued: "the French Government is glad to have contributed to the success of Vietnam's open-door policy. It has granted and will grant more aid to Vietnam in the latter's relations with international organizations such as the International Monetary Fund and the European Economic Community. It is ready to broaden economic-commercial cooperation with Vietnam in many areas.

"So far France and Vietnam have cooperated in a variety of domains: posts and telecommunications, banking, oil, tourism, maritime transportation, health work, and the training of medium-level cadres.

"The French Government has not yet set any precise level for its aid to Vietnam in 1992. Mowever, it will grant 20 million francs for the training of personnel in the financial field because Vietnam needs assistance in accountancy, taxation, customs, and management, where it has little experience.

"France should not confine itself to the sale of materials or making investments. It wishes that the two parties could also exchange know-how and technologies and increase further their cooperation," he added.

Papers Hail 'New Step' in Relations With Laos

BK1702091892 Hanoi VNA in English 0604 GMT 17 Feb 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA February 17—NHAN DAN and QUAN DOI NHAN DAN today runs editorials welcoming the fine results of the visit to Laos from Feb. 13-15 of a Vietnamese Government delegation led by chairman Vo Van Kiet of the Council of Ministers.

The national daily NHAN DAN says that during chairman Vo Van Kiet's talks with his Lao counterpart, the two sides affirmed the determination of the two parties, governments and peoples to defend and strengthen the special Vietnamese-Lao relations, and continue renovating the multi-sided cooperation between the two countries with stress being laid on efficiency, quality and mutual advantages for the sake of their development.

It continues by saying that the results of the visit meet the two peoples' aspirations to further promote the special friendship and solidarity and the comprehensive cooperation between Vietnam and Laos, and encourage the two peoples to make more, greater achievements in the renovation process in each country.

For its part, the Army paper QUAN DOI NHAN DAN recalls that the two sides agreed to consider the modalities of cooperation in the construction and use of the Hon La port in central Vietnam on the principle of mutual benefit. The paper describes this agreement as a manifestation of the mutual sympathy and trust and preferential treatment based on the special Vietnamese-Laos relations.

QUAN DOI NHAN DAN stresses that in the present complicated international situation, the Vietnamese-Lao relations have become ever more invaluable material and spiritual assets of the two nations.

It concludes:

"Chairman Vo Van Kiet's visit marks a new step of development in the Vietnamese-Lao special relations, contributing to the cause of peace, friendship and cooperation in the region."

Vo Van Kiet Visit Seen as Success

BK1702112492 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 17 Feb 92

[Station Commentary]

[Text] The recent official visit to Laos by Vietnamese Premier Vo Van Kiet has greatly contributed to the special relationship as well as bilateral cooperation and development. Our radio has the following comment:

The joint Vietnam-Laos communique has highlighted the success of the visit as well as progress made during this trip. Leaders of the two governments have asserted determination of the two parties and states to strengthen the special Laos-Vietnam friendship and to renovate the bilateral cooperation on the basis of equality and priority and mutual benefit for the sake of development of both nations. The two sides have signed a framework agreement for 1992- 95 period and a . agreement for 1992 alone on economic, cultural, scientific, and technological cooperation.

They agreed to let concerned branches of the two sides to continue negotiating in signing agreements on concrete matters and on the foundation for the new structure of bilateral cooperation to come into effect in the soonest possible time.

Vietnam pledged to continue facilitating Laos to carry on import-export activities through its seaports. The two sides agreed to conduct joint feasibility studies on construction and use of the Hon La Port on the Central Coast of Vietnam in accordance with each country and international laws on the principle of mutual benefit with regard to priority and preference because of special ties. [sentence as heard] Both sides expressed elation at the development in each country's relations with China and the ASEAN. They expressed readiness to adhere to the Southeast Asia Bali Treaty on Amity and Cooperation and committed to abide by the Paris Peace Accord on Cambodia and to cooperate with all signatories of the accord to implement it on the basis of respect for national sovereignty and the rights to self-determination of the Cambodian people, respect for territorial integrity of Cambodian neighbors as well as the UN Charter.

The outcome of this visit has met the aspiration of the two peoples and contributed to strengthening the special friendship and solidarity and all-round Vietnam-Laos cooperation as well as development. Vietnam pledged to do all it can to raise these ties to the higher level in the interests of not only the two countries but also peace, stability, and cooperation in the region.

Call for Vigilance Against Enemy Plots

BK1802082592 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 27 Jan 92

[Article by Chu Phung: "It Is Our Regular Duty To Secure Political Stability"]

[Text] The legend about My Chu villagers who lost their vigilance and handed a sacred crossbow over to the enemy, dumping all their undertaking into the deep sea, still serves as a good lesson for generations to come: Vigilance against the enemy and national construction must go along with national defense. Should we exchange our views on this issue on the occasion of new spring days? Forces hostile to socialism in Vietnam have never ceased to oppose and attack us. Moreover, following the collapse of socialism in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union, the enemies consider us one of their major targets of attack.

The enemies with their modern facilities have concluded that a struggle through the mass media—the press, radio, television, books, and documents which means via open sources—will enable them to collect more than 80 percent of all their intelligence information. Imperialist spies have collected information from overt and covert sources and for the enemy intelligence agencies so they can analyze them, assess objectives, and formulate their stratagems of sabotage.

In order to collect this information, hostile forces have spent hundreds of million and even billions of U.S. dollars to purchase facilities for espionage operations. In World War II, a journalist named (Jacobson) wrote a book on German fascist troops which angered Hitler because the most secret information of Germany was published in that book. Hitler ordered (Jacobson's) arrest. However, the journalist specifically pointed to the press items and documents publicly announced by the fascist German state agencies saying all he did was gather all the information and write the book that then caused Hitler's wrath.

Many intelligence agents have considered (Jacobson) the most talented intelligence agent in the world and this story has been included in the history of world intelligence, considering overt information collection one of the most important ways of gathering intelligence information.

At present, quite a number of our people when contacting foreigners in seminars and at other public functions, have disclosed many secrets. Even the newly discovered valuable documents and the secret economic and financial policies have also been made public. This is a very serious loophole. A political scientist concludes: That all the people preserve secrets is one of the most important aspect of counterespionage. This is the very basic scope of counterespionage.

At present, outside hostile forces still continue their policy of envelopment and embargo against us in order to press and demand that we reform our political system in accordance with their scheme. They, in fact, want us to renounce the socialist objective and follow the capitalist path. In reality, democracy and civil rights which they are claiming loudly, are their plots and acts to undermine our ideology, to make credulous and gullible people oscillate and lose their confidence in our party and state, and to make dissatisfied opponents in our country think that their opportunity has come and they should enthusiastically hold meetings and be prepared to establish reactionary organizations.

Hostile forces have positively exploited our economic difficulties and exacerbated dissatisfaction among our people. As for some socioeconomic problems, a country like ours which has suffered many years of war, cannot resolve all of them overnight. This is also a painful problem of many other countries in the world, including the developed ones. They have further instigated the problems of nationalities and religions. They hope that with this scheme they will be able to incite the masses against our regime just like they did in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union, and even at Tiananmen Square in China.

The enemy's assault forces have carried out these schemes and operations, primarily through the mass media, using very reactionary contents. Their audiovisual facilities have sent huge amount of information to our country on a 24-hour basis. If we do not screen out the information carefully, the inherent poison will on a longterm basis impregnate the soil and will eventually develop its effect. In the so-called campaigns of shifting fire to the homeland and of making a river with small streams alone, the number of reactionary books, magazines, and documents smuggled into our country, has reached the figure of a few tonnes. They have even mailed documents through the post office to home addresses unfamiliar to them, making believe that they have many supporters. They have even deceitfully published fake issues of NHAN DAN, QUAN DOI NHAN DAN, and HANOI MOI to carry their deceitful writings.

Most of the few million overseas Vietnamese have looked to their homeland. However, there are also reactionaries in exile who have established dozens of reactionary organizations and dozens of reactionary newspapers and they have also sent ephemeral news like that of Hoang Co Minh to the homeland and we have suppressed this news.

Along with those notoriously reactionary political activities, the enemies have also dumped decadent cultural works into our country, including books, newspapers, music and video tapes in order to propagate a lifestyle completely strange to socialism and Vietnam's ethics, human dignity and culture. Such cultural works have depraved some people, especially youths, which the enemies have considered a way to erode the foundation.

We should also mention the plots and operations to buy off and attract our scientists and intellectuals in which they pay special attention to those who have a chance to stay close to high-ranking cadres of our party and state. They are keen to look for dissatisfied opponents and those who hold viewpoints contrary to our party and state whom they usually claimed as a way to erect a banner and to elect a leader in order to muster other dissatisfied people so as to carry out the so-called political degeneration within our regime. These are specific maneuvers of the peaceful evolution scheme and activities of hostile forces against our country. They in fact want to overthrow our regime by these maneuvers. Evidently, we will never forget the lessons learned from the maneuvers normally used by the enemies to create turmoil, changes, and riots, and to directly intervene, even by military force, which might probably occur.

The sixth party congress and recently the important resolutions of the seventh party congress which are supported by all the people, have step by step enabled our country to gradually resolve the socioeconomic problems, overcome countless difficulties and advance. Amidst problems, we have already seen an exit and a guideline for development. Our steadiness and stability, even when the situation in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union was collapsing, is the most steel-like answer to the enemies concerning the correctness of the renovation process initiated by our party itself and implemented by our people themselves.

Our people, together with all our party members who for the past half century or more, have sacrificed their bones and blood to establish the socialist regime, resolve to unite around our party to defend our regime and build socialism which our party, Uncle Ho, and people have chosen. We will never forget the lesson that has become a law in Vietnam: National construction must go along with national defense. The lessons of revolutionary vigilance in the struggle against hostile forces, and even the lesson in the story about My Chau thousands of years ago, still remain current issues today.

Public Views on Constitutional Amendments

BK1602073092

[Editorial report] The following is a sampling of public views on the draft amendments to the 1980 SRV Constitution reported by Hanoi Radio and Television:

Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese at 0500 GMT on 13 February carries a five-minute report with portions recorded on a debate held on an unspecified date by cadres of the Tan Mai ward in Hai Ba Trung precinct of Hanoi to contribute views on the draft amendments to the constitution. The report quotes a participant named Nguyen Xuan Luu, chairman of the Tan Mai Ward People's Committee, as suggesting that "Consideration must be taken to merge the position of Council of State chairman with that of National Assembly chairman into a single position so the chairman of the Council of State can concurrently serve as chairman of the National Assembly. Only through this will our organs of power system become less cumbersome and and more effective."

Le Sung, vice chairman of the Tan Mai Ward Fatherland Front Committee, also spoke his views, saying: "May I contribute some humble views on Chapter Two dealing with the economic system. I found that Articles 15 and 16 are completely new to me. They are suited for a changing world and are compatible with the people's aspirations. This makes everyone happy. Those capable of engaging in production and business are feeling truly happy and elated although they still have some doubts as to whether their assets would be confiscated if they became rich. To ensure the observance of the constitution by citizens, the constitution should be clearly written so the people can place their confidence in and correctly comply with it."

Hanoi Vietnam Television Network in Vietnamese at 1200 GMT on 1 February 1992 carries an eight-minute report that Thai Binh province has started holding discussions for the people to contribute views on the draft amendments to the constitution since early January 1992 and that so far it "has completed its first phase" of such discussions. The report then presents the views of Tran Quoc Mien of the Provincial Judicial Office, who said: "Point Three of Article 111 stipulates that the prime minister is authorized to appoint the chairmen, vice chairmen, and members of provincial administrative committees. Meanwhile, Article 123 stipulates that the chairmen of provincial administrative committees must be members of the provincial people's councils. Thus, the prime minister may face some problems when it comes to moving these people around. Therefore, I suggest that Article 123 in the constitution be revised to say that the chairmen of the provincial administrative committees do not necessarily be made members of the provincial people's councils as is the case with their vice chairmen and other members."

Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese at 1100 GMT on 27 January 1992 broadcasts a 5-minute report with portions recorded on the views contributed on an unspecified date by the following individuals:

—Nguyen Quoc Hung, a retired cadre who is now chairman of the Phan Chu Trinh Ward Fatherland Front in Hanoi, who contributed views on Chapter One of the revised constitution, calling for further clarification of some points in this chapter as he "found some of them unclear such as those dealing with schools, hospitals, and housing."

—Major Nguyen Cong Hiep of the Hoan Kiem Precinct Public Security Office in Hanoi contributed his views on Chapter Four of the revised constitution dealing with the defense of the socialist fatherland. He said: "From my perspective and my experience and after studying Article 45, I think that this article should have pointed out the need to build the People's Public Security Force into an armed element of the party and the state because during the course of the revolutionary struggle, the People's Public Security Force has always served as a tough, faithful force to protect the party and the people."

Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese at 1100 GMT on 25 January 1992 carries a four-minute report with portions recorded on the views contributed on unspecified date by the following individuals to the draft amendments to the constitution:

—Comrade Tran Dao, deputy head of the Economic Police Department of the Ministry of Interior, who contributed his views on Chapter Four dealing with the defense of the socialist fatherland. He said: "In Article 45 in Chapter Four of the constitution, I found that there certain points to be supplemented. For instance, the word a Regular Armed Element should be added to the term the People's Public Security Force" He added: "If we fail to build it into a regular armed element, it will not be able to fulfill its duty of struggling against various kinds of crimes to maintain security for the people."

—Comrade Vu Duy Tinh of the Construction and Land office, Hong Bang Precinct, Haiphong, contributed his views on Article 18 or the old Article 20 in Chapter Two of the revised constitution dealing with the economic system. He suggested that "the right to the inheritance of land should be applied merely to private citizens and not to state or social organizations."

Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in English at 1000 GMT on 17 January carries a three-minute "Talk of the Week" program to report on discussions on and ideas contributed by the people in localities to the draft amendments of the constitution. The radio says: "People throughout Vietnam are engaged in the discussion of the draft amendments to the constitution and are making suggestions to perfect it. This is an important task being carried out by the people despite the fact that they are busy preparing for the traditional lunar new year Tet festival. The Fatherland Front Committee and the local administration in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City have held meetings to introduce the draft constitution for public discussion. Besides, every citizen can also send [words indistinct] directly to the Office of the State Council and the National Assembly free of charge. A retired colonel who took part in the discussion organized by the Association of War Veterans said that he was pleased to see that thanks to the people's suggestions and contributions, the Vietnamese Constitution has a history of development and has become more dynamic, thus suitable to [words indistinct] of the Vietnamese revolution from the first constitution in 1946, then 1957, and most recently in 1980." The announcer further says: "participants to these discussions expressed their elation at the new development of the country with a view to early overcoming the current socioeconomic crisis and to mobilizing all factors to make the country powerful and prosperous. Every suggestion will be finally studied by the Office of the State Council and the National Asembly before compiling into the last draft to be submitted to the National Assembly. The National Assembly, the eighth legislature of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam was elected on 19 April, 1987 for a five-year term. Due to the complex situation of the country, the last session of the National Assembly, held late last year, decided to extend its term for another three months so that the National Assembly would join efforts with the entire people to complete the 1992 revised constitution."

Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese at 2330 GMT on 19 January carries a five-minute report on discussions and contributions of ideas made by military units in the 3d Military Region to the draft amendments. The radio says: "The Air Defense Corps contended that the contribution of ideas to the draft amendments is an extensive and significant political activity. As a result, the corps has held meetings with military commissars and propaganda and training officers of divisions, military agencies, and schools to help them firmly grasp the contents of the draft." The announcer says that units have set up group discussions to study, discuss, and contribute ideas to the draft amendments, and that "all units have contributed concrete and useful ideas to the draft with a high sense of responsibility and in the spirit of patriotism and love for socialism." The announcer further says that the signal and armored corps have also contributed many constructive viewpoints to the draft and that "most of the ideas unanimously agreed to the contents of the draft admendments while making some suggestions aimed at making the new constitution complete so that the institutionalization of the comprehensive renovation line set by the party can be carried out effectively, thus meeting requirements in the new stage of the revolution." The announcer also says that the Huong Giang Army Corps, the Institute of Military Technology, and the Politico- Military Officers School have also held meetings to "discuss and contribute concrete ideas to the draft amendments to the 1980 constitution."

Paper Scorns Article by Dissident Bui Tin

BK1602154392 Hanoi VNA in English 1232 GMT 16 Feb 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA Feb. 16—An army colonel and long-time colleague of Bui Tin has described his latest braggings in THE WASHINGTON POST as the product of imagination of a renegade who is "turning his back on the past, brutalizing the present, and blinding himself before the future."

In an article appearing on HANOI CHU NHAT (HANOI SUNDAY) Colonel Bui Bien Thuy, a senior editor of the army paper QUAN DOI NHAN DAN who has worked with Bui Tin for nearly 20 years, wrote "with his usual braggings and lies Bui Tin has shamelessly abrogated to himself one exploit after another in an attempt to deceive unknowledgeable people and curry favors with those who are cosseting and using him.

In his article entitled "The Betrayal of a Revolution" published in THE WASHINGTON POST Bui Tin wrote: "I was wounded in 1954 during a famous battle in Dien Bien Phu where we trounced the French. Later I was assigned the direction of many important missions."

What has actually happened? Most of us who have collaborated with Bui Tin for nearly a quarter-century have never seen Bui Tin's name in the list of wounded soldiers of the office. Not once was Bui Tin present at the annual meetings to commemorate the war invalids at the newspaper office. Also never has anyone seen Bui Tin's Dien Bien Phu insignia. To make double sure, we went through Bui Tin's curriculum vitaes still kept at the QUAN DOI NHAN DAN office and also the autobiography he penned in 1959 and supplemented in 1967 but in none or them did we see any reference to his taking part in or being wounded at the Dien Bien Phu battle.

In all these documants it was written that from July 1950 to January 1954 Bui Tin convalesced in Nanning (China) and later was assigned to the propaganda and training board of the Political Department of the 4th interzone (comprising the northern provinces of central Vietnam from Thanh Hoa to Thua Thien). In July 1958 he was sent to a political course for medium and senior cadres.

To be more certain, we went to the former responsible [words indistinct] and also many commanding officers of the Dien Bien Phu campaign but all of them broke into laughter and said: "That's pure fiction." More shamelessly still, Bui Tin many times swore to the BBC that it was himself who accepted the surrender of the Duong Van Minh cabinet, and the [words indistinct] liberation army tanks knock down the gate of the independence palace. Now Bui Tin wrote in THE WASHINGTON POST: "As I was a senior officer, my comrades insisted that I should accept the surrender of Duong Van Minh, the last head of the defeated Saigon Government."

On this score, the journalist Nguyen Tran Thiet knows better than anyone else that in April the editorial board of QUAN DOI NHAN DAN had ten war correspondents to accompany different detachments of the army in the assault on Saigon and Bui Tin was one of them. He rode in the same car as Nguyen Tram Thiet and they arrived in saigon earlier than all other correspondents. Nguyen Tran Thiet said: "[words indistinct] attack of our army, by 9:30 hrs on April 30, 1975 the guns had fallen silent on the whole of South Vietnam. By 11:30 hrs our troops had completely occupied the independence palace. There the entire Duong Van Minh cabinet had been gathered to hand in the surrender. At 12:30 hrs when I and Bui Tin arrived everyting was okay. We met two sentries of the liberation army at the gate of the palace. At about 14:30 hrs, when he saw us, Cong Trang, deputy political commissar of the Hung Giang detachment of the liberation army, said: "All of them in the Duong Van Minh cabinet were still over there on the second floor. You may go there to have material for your reportages."

In his article "Saigon in the Historic Moments" published in QUAN DOI NHAN DAN on 2 May 2 1975, Bui Tin himself wrote: "As we arrived at the presidential palace at 12:30 hrs on April 30 we already saw two large flags of the revolution flying on the top." In his article for THE WASHINGTON POST Bui Tun expressed "deep regret" that "I have many times advised the [words indistinct] not to put into practice the transformation program in the south (economic transformation of agriculture, commerce, and the compradore capitalist economy) but they did not heed my advice." Actually, during that period (1978-1979) Bui Tin, who was assigned to the south to cover this degree of socialist transformation, lavished praises on the effect of this transfomation, especially with regard to the compradore capitalists. He wrote: "They (the compradore capitalists) rabidly oppose the revolution. We must attack them urgently but carefully, hit strongly and accurately, and deal with them separately in accordance with their crimes" (QUAN DOI NHAN DAN 19 September 1979). Likewise, Bui Tin condemned most vehemently the generals and senior officials of the Saigon regime. In 1975 and 1976, in his capacity as correspondent of QUAN DOI NHAN DAN Bui Tin interviewed [word indistinct] of these men either at their private homes or at the reeducation camps.

In his serialized articles entitled "Death Tool of the U.S. and Its Puppets" which ran four instalments in QUAN DOI NHAN DAN in 1977, Bui Tin made [words indistinct] of the criminal past of such brasshats and high officials of Saigon like Huynh Van Cao, Nguyen Huu Co, Le Minh Dao, and Vu Quang Khiem. Himself having many times visited the reeducation camps where these men were kept, Bui Tin highly praised the way they were pre-educated and the lenient policy of the [word indistinct] government. He wrote that "truth is coming to them step by step and is blazing the way for those minds so long poisoned by reactionary theories." That's not all. In his article Bui Tin went so far as to boast that he had been "very close to Mr. Ho, who died in 1969."

Ludicrous still, he wrote that he had drafted the plan to secretly move the army to the south to fight the Americans. It suffices to recall here that in 1964 Bui Tin was head of the factual section of the paper QUAN DOI NHAN DAN and at the end of the Vietnam war in 1973 he was only deputy editor-in-chief of the paper. In such a position, how could he claim to be "very close" to president Ho Chi Minh and other leaders? Colonel Bui Bien Thuy concluded: "There are many lies and fabrications in Bui Tin's article. Through this article Bui Tin has once more invented a series of imaginary exploits of himself in an attempt to pass off for a big-caliber politican. In fact, his latest article only proves more clearly that Bui Tin has turned his back on the past, is brutalizing the present, and shutting his eyes before the future."

People's Councils Conference Concludes 12 Feb

Do Muoi Addresses Gathering

BK1302105192 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 12 Feb 92

[Text] According to a Voice of Vietnam correspondent's dispatch from Ho Chi Minh City, the fourth national conference of the people's councils has successfully concluded after three days of urgent work in a constructive and straightforward spirit.

Comrade General Secretary Do Muoi called on and addressed the conference. He commended the people's councillors for their efforts in motivating the people to overcome difficulties and challenges in order to fulfill socioeconomic tasks and ensure security and national defense.

Under the party leadership, the people's councils have effected gradual improvements to clearly reflect the people's aspirations, thus contributing to consolidating the revolutionary administration.

He also pointed out a number of weaknesses like the failure of the people's councillors to fully develop their role in solving local problems.

On the duties of people's councils at all levels in the future, he stressed the need for them to continue renovating their organization and workstyle in order to guarantee work efficiency and contribute to consolidating political stability and public security and order.

He stressed the fact that one of the key factors for ensuring their work efficiency rests with efforts to renovate the leadership of party committee echelons over people's councils at all levels. To this end, party committee echelons must firmly grasp all policies, lines, and plans and must improve the quality of cadres so that they can participate in people's councils' activities.

The views expressed at the conference unanimously agreed with the Council of State's report reviewing people's councils' activities in 1991 and setting forth the orientations and tasks for 1992.

Based on facts, the delegates shared their diversified work experiences and asserted that the councils have made marked progress during their two-year term of duty and that their position and role have been enhanced.

Many delegates also contributed suggestions to the draft amendments to the Constitution.

Le Quang Dao Meets Councillors

BK1302102392 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 11 Feb 92

[Text] According to a Ho Chi Minh City-based Voice of Vietnam correspondent, on the afternoon of 11 February on the occasion of the national conference of people's councils in Ho Chi Minh City, the Ho Chi Minh City people's council and people's committee standing bodies organized a get-together with the comrade members of the Council of State and people's councils of 49 provinces and cities nationwide to exchange views and strengthen the solidarity between Ho Chi Minh City and other localities.

The comrade vice chairman of the Ho Chi Minh City people's committee informed the delegates on a number of outstanding activities of people's councils at all levels in Ho Chi Minh City in 1991.

Next, Comrade Le Quang Dao, vice chairman of the Council of State, warmly commended representatives of people's councils in Ho Chi Minh City and 18 outlying districts for their practical suggestions during this two-day conference. The comrade vice chairman of the Council of State warmly praised the city people's councillors for their efforts in organizing and motivating the local people to fulfill the socioeconomic objectives set forth for the city. They also commended them for their contributions to improving the state mechanism and in motivating people from all walks of life to contribute suggestions to the draft amendments to the 1980 Constitution.

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